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# African Violet

MAGAZINE

January • February 2005

Volume 58

Number 1



# AVSA Information

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**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* avsa@earthlink.net

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**AVM EDITOR:** Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. *E-mail* rumsey@earthlink.net

**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

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**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. *E-mail* avmads@valomet.com

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**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* janice@qwp.net

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# African Violet

## MAGAZINE

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Ness' Coral Sunset

Exhibited by: Anita Harold

Hybridized by: D. Ness

Large



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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## OFFICERS

**Janet Riemer**, President  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007  
*email:* J\_Riemer@comcast.net

**Linda Owens**, 1st VP  
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
*email:* Ldowens@columbus.rr.com

**Joyce Stork**, 2nd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025  
*email:* kents@tvsonline.net

**Ron Davidson**, 3rd VP  
941 F. M. 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154  
*email:* chiefrond@aol.com

**Nancy Hayes**, Secretary  
9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002  
*email:* violetnancy@comcast.net

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
5202 Links Lane, Leesberg, FL 34748  
*email:* ggordon120@aol.com

**John E. (Jack) Wilson**, Immediate Past President  
114 Pine Valley Court, DeBary, FL 32713-2300  
*email:* cagmo@comcast.net

## STAFF

**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
*email:* rumsey@earthlink.net

**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
*email:* avmads@valornet.com

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
*email:* barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503  
*email:* floydll@earthlink.net

**Heather Menzel**, Tally Time  
135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067  
*email:* hmenzel@erols.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

DEC 28 2004

GARDEN LIBRARY



Dear AVSA Members,

I hope you all had a happy holiday season. Whether you celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, family and friends can make the holidays wonderful.

The fall regional conventions and shows are behind us, and a busy time it was. I was able to attend three, on successive weekends, and they were all great. Warm camaraderie with fellow African violet enthusiasts was combined with shows filled with beautiful exhibits. I hope one of these many shows was close enough to your home that you could visit and/or participate.

In addition to the conventions, I joined other members of the AVSA Executive Committee for a fall meeting in Beaumont, Texas. We spent the better part of two days preparing a draft revision of the Policies and Procedures manual, the book that the Board of Directors and the staff use to guide this organization. We also wrestled with problems and pooled ideas on how we can make AVSA better, and eventually bigger. Financial concerns led us to reduce the hours during which the AVSA office is open to seven hours per day throughout the year, from 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday, CST. We hope that this does not cause serious inconveniences for any one.

The Executive Committee members also visited the AVSA office on North St. in Beaumont. [See summary and pictures on page 5 of this issue.] While there we discussed ideas with both Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, and Ruth Rumsey, Editor of the *AVM*. Jenny will implement the changed office hours and will be able to assist you if you have difficulty accessing the supplements formerly printed in the *AVM*.

Now that cold weather is upon most of us, do be careful to ensure that your violets don't get too chilled. Spring shows are "around the corner" and you'll want to be able to exhibit your beauties. Also, convention isn't too far away, so save your pennies, make your travel plans, and come join us in the Cincinnati area. Check out the tours on the AVSA website and in the "purple pages" of this issue. Plans look good so don't miss out. See you there.

The calendar says 2005, a new year in which to make resolutions, and strive to keep them. If you have ideas on how AVSA can be better, please share them, and together we can make progress this year. Good health and prosperity for us all.

Happy Violeting.



Janet Riemer  
President, AVSA

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey  
AVM Editor  
2375 North Street  
Beaumont, TX 77702  
Email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Our convention is a few short months away, so be sure to look over the Purple Pages in this issue and begin making your convention plans. You'll notice that the white cover contains the usual membership information and order form, as well as the complete Convention Registration Form for the 2005 convention. **Please remember that a separate registration form for each attendee is required.** Photocopies are acceptable.

Our Shows & Judges Chairman, **Bill Foster**, contacted me about an error in an article I ran in the last issue. Here is what Bill said about the article and the correction. Thanks, Bill!

"Pat Kennedy had an excellent article, 'Planting in an Unusual Container' in the November/December AVM. However, the last sentence might indicate that other gesneriads might be exhibited in unusual containers. This would be great to decorate your home, or perhaps to enter in Gesneriad Society shows, however, **classes in AVSA shows for unusual containers only allow the use of African violets. Also, African violets planted into an unusual container must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months.** Unusual Containers are in the horticulture classes, not in design, therefore, the plant cannot be purchased the night before."

**Laurel Goretsky's** debut column writing about miniature and semiminature African violets appears on page 12 in this issue. With a new writer, we also changed the name of the column to "Small Talk". If you have topics you would like to see covered, or suggestions and ideas for the column, please let Laurel know.

I owe **Barbara Hostetler** an apology for misspelling her last name in the November/December AVM. Barbara grew the beautiful plant 'Candy Fountain', a Fredette hybrid, featured in our Showcase section on page 29.

The biographies and photos of the new Board Nominees usually appear in the January/February issue, but due to unforeseen delays, they will be published in the March/April 2005 AVM. This is the slate of nominees put forth by the Nominating Committee, and will be voted on during the Annual Membership Meeting at the AVSA Convention in April.

Welcome to a new advertiser, **Aussie Gold Orchid Mix**. See their full page, color ad on page 40 of this issue. As always, I encourage you to support our AVM advertisers, as they support this publication.

## In Memory of Paula Foster

by Anne Nicholas

Our African violet world has lost a true friend. Texas, national, and international violet growers and friends are saddened by the loss of Paula Foster. Paula passed away on Monday, October 25th. She is survived by her husband, Bill Foster (President of AVSA 1999-2001), her daughter, Deborah, her son, Wilson, daughter-in-law, Vicky, and her foster child, Margery Clive.

Paula Wilson Foster was raised in the little town of Olney, Texas. When she was just seven years old, she became best friends with Bill Foster who would ride over on his horse to visit her. This friendship became the basis of romance as the two grew older. Paula and Bill were married in 1956 and shared forty-eight years of marriage. Bill can remember no single bad moment in their marriage.

In addition to growing her beautiful violets and helping Bill with their violet business, Paula was a Master Judge and held countless offices in her Dallas, Texas clubs, the Lone Star African Violet Council, and was responsible for many duties in AVSA. Her awards for service and growing were numerous, including the AVSA Hudson Memorial Service Award. Whenever a job, no matter how big or small, needed to be done, this remarkable woman went into action. She quietly led and contributed to the work behind the scene. She never wanted or demanded attention for the job she did. When Paula was involved in a task, it was a relief because all would know that not only would the job be done, but that it would be done well.

Paula blessed us all with warmth, friendship, and a love for violets. She will be truly missed.

# Visit to the AVSA Office

by Janet Riemer - AVSA President



Third Vice President Ron Davidson, AVSA President Janet Riemer, Secretary Nancy Hayes, Second Vice President Joyce Stork, First Vice President Linda Owens.

On Monday, October 25th, five members of the AVSA Executive Committee paid a visit to the AVSA office on North St. in Beaumont, Texas. Included were Janet Riemer, President (and Archivist), Linda Owens, First Vice President, Joyce Stork, Second Vice President, Ron Davidson, Third Vice President, and



Office manager Jenny Daugereau and AVSA Officers with Mandy Meza, Office Secretary.

Nancy Hayes, Secretary. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, Gary Gordon, Treasurer, Jo Anne Martinez, Finance Chairman, and Jack Wilson, Immediate Past President, were unable to be there.

After a warm greeting from Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, Ruth Rumsey, Editor of the *AVM*, and Mandy Meza, recently hired secretary, there was a tour of the building. On the first floor, we were shown the reception area with Mandy's workstation and the mailroom where orders are packaged. In the rear is the kitchen, and a wood-paneled room where the archival copies of the *AVM* are



Looking over some of the office African violets.



In the second floor sun room.

kept. Upstairs, there are four rooms: Jenny's office, Ruth's office, and two storage rooms.

In small groups and later in one large get-together, office procedures were discussed and ideas for possible changes were



Webmaster Jim Owens points out the new additions to the AVSA web site.

shared. As we didn't want to close the office while we went out for lunch together, we ordered from a nearby restaurant, picked up the order, and gathered around in the kitchen for a delicious meal. Then Ruth took these

pictures to commemorate the visit. It was such an enjoyable and informative experience for all that it was decided to do it again in the future. The members of the Executive Committee who were present agreed that seeing the office in person, and gaining first-hand knowledge of office procedures and functions, will provide valuable insight in conducting the business of the committee.

If any AVSA member should be traveling through Beaumont and have a little extra time, don't hesitate to call the office and then stop by for a visit. The staff welcomes the opportunity to meet and greet AVSA members.



President Janet Riemer with plaques honoring Lizeta Hamilton and Nell-Sue Tyson, which are displayed in the entry hall of the AVSA office.

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
*Email:* JSmith4@bsu.edu

A trait that often goes unnoticed in African violets is the hair on the leaves. These structures are under genetic control, and hybridizers can work with this trait like they do for those of flower color and shape. The most ancient type of leaf hair pattern appears to be long erect hairs that are 5-9 cells tall. This is the pattern found in *S. goetzeana*, the probable ancestor to African violets, according to the DNA studies. While other species share this same leaf hair type, many have a combination of long and short (2-3 cells) erect hairs. One species, *S. brevopilosa*, has only the short erect hairs. A second type of leaf hair expression found in the species is for the hairs to be appressed to leaf surface. These hairs bend sharply near the base to parallel the surface of the leaf rather than standing erect. The hairs are usually a combination of long and short lengths such as found in *S. confusa*, *S. difficilis*, *S. grotei*, and *S. magungensis*. One species, *S. nitida*, has only short appressed hairs. Nearly all of today's hybrids have the long and short erect hairs, a reflection of their ancestry from *S. ionantha*.

A small number of experiments have been done to determine the inheritance pattern of the two leaf hair types. One experiment crossed *S. magungensis* (appressed hairs) with *S. velutina* (erect hairs), and a second experiment *S. difficilis* (appressed hairs) with *S. ionantha* (erect hairs). The F1 plants all had appressed hairs in both crosses. The *S. magungensis* X *S. velutina* F1 plants were taken to the F2 generation where the erect hair trait reappeared. Thus, appressed hairs would appear to be a dominant trait to erect hairs.

Future hybridizing could add more texture to the leaves of commercial plants by bringing in the leaf hair traits from the species. The shiny leaves of *S. nitida* are due to the short appressed hairs. *S. brevopilosa* leaves appear hairless because they have only short hairs, but they reveal a velvety texture when touched. If you are looking for a different type of hybridizing project, consider combining the flowers and growth forms of our commercial plants with the leaf textures from the species.

**Q:** *Is it possible to have a plant that is a chimera for the leaves rather than the flowers?*

A: Leaf chimeras would be very difficult to detect because you would need two different leaf traits that could be distinguished apart from each other. Since most of the leaf characteristics affect the edges, tip, and base of the leaf, seeing a second, different trait in the center would be tricky. However, I recently saw a picture of a plant on e-Bay that might be a leaf chimera. The leaves had wide dark green outer edges and the centers were a pale color. The pale area covered about a third of the total surface area, and the edges between the two colors was somewhat irregular. Picture a plant with extensive Tommie Lou variegation, but with reverse colors. The overall appearance was quite striking and unlike anything I've ever seen before. The plant was reported to reproduce true to type only by suckers and not by leaf cuttings. Flower chimeras can only be reproduced through suckers or through the buds on the bracts of the flower stems. If the claims on the reproduction for this plant are correct, it would seem to be a chimera. I hope to obtain a sample of the plant for study in order to determine if it really is a leaf chimera.

**Q:** *I have a seedling with flowers that show solid color in the center, but the color is restricted to the veins as the color moves to the edges. The result is a kind of network of color on the outer areas of the petals. How is this trait inherited?*

A: I have seen this type of color pattern in flowers before. 'Persian Lace' and 'Canadian Sunset' are two plants with pictures in First Class 2 that are examples of the veining you describe. I'm not aware that this trait has a specific name, nor have I seen any studies on how the pattern is inherited. However, color patterns in African violet flowers are usually dominant traits, and I would suspect that the vein pattern trait follows a similar inheritance. There might also be a second gene that interacts in the vein pattern

expression. Most of the examples I've seen of this trait have relatively pale flowers. This would suggest that the color inhibitor gene is present. The inhibitor gene is a dominant trait with dose effects. Two copies of this gene give very pale flower colors, one copy gives medium flower color, and no copies will give dark pigmentation. The vein pattern might be best expressed if the color inhibitor gene is in the two copies or homozygous state. The color would be restricted in the areas between the veins, while the cells immediately around the veins are able to produce more pigmentation which makes the pattern visible. If this model is accurate, crossing a vein pattern plant to a plant with very pale red or blue flowers should result in offspring with the trait. I'm not sure that the pattern would be visible in pink because of the lack of contrast between the colors. Crossing to a dark flowered plant which lacks the inhibitor gene would not allow the expression of the vein colors in the F1 offspring because they would only have one copy of the inhibitor gene. Crossing the F1 plants together would allow about 25% of the offspring to have the double dose of the inhibitor gene and the vein pattern should now be visible. This would make the trait appear to be a recessive because it skips a generation. The vein pattern is very attractive, and I wish you luck in hybridizing more flowers of this type.

**Q:** *Is it advisable to use a chimera as a parent when making a cross?*

A: If the plant shows good traits in the leaves, symmetry, and has a high bud count, why not use it in a cross? These traits are under the usual genetic control and would inherit the same from a chimera as they would from a non-chimera plant. The chimera pattern in the flowers is unlikely to be passed on to offspring as this trait is not, strictly speaking, genetic, but an accident of tissue layering. I would suspect that the plant would pass on the flower color of the center strip, but you may get a few offspring that inherited the color of the outer strip. Some of the chimera cultivars have many good characteristics, and there is no reason not to use them as parents when hybridizing.

**Q:** *I am interested in plants that are sports. Can a sport revert back to the original plant?*

A: Yes, every once in a while an unstable mutation that gave rise to a sport will back mutate to the original type. This is rare, but it has been known to occur. The more usual path is for the sport to continue to mutate and give rise to even more sports.

Interested in sports and mutations? I will be giving a presentation on this topic at the national AVSA convention in Cincinnati in April.

## Repotting Large Standards and Trailers

by Marie Montague

Repotting large trailers (18" across with 10-15 crowns) is difficult. The plants are still good bloomers, but the outer crowns begin to sag and the centers need grooming. There must be some way to protect the integrity of the central and subsequent crowns for show purposes.

Repotting large standards (12" across) was never a problem. I raise an Eliza ring up against the bottom leaves, place the plant over a barrel, remove soil, wick, excess roots, and cut off the hard "nub" of old stem, and then place in a "molded" pot (see below.)

A substitute must be found to mimic an Eliza ring for trailers. Eliza rings are too small for pan pots. The following has worked very successfully for me. I haven't lost a trailer yet.

- Select a piece of cardboard large enough to hold all crowns (soda and beer trays work nicely.)
- Cut a hole in the center of the cardboard large enough to insert the old pot. Next, cut the cardboard from one side to the center hole. Repeat on the opposite side, and the cardboard will come apart with a half-circle on each side.
- Place the piece of cardboard together and, **on the underside**, lightly masking tape the two cut sides to hold the cardboard together again.
- Prepare a molded pot (same size or larger).
- Place the trailer on cardboard support over barrel and

remove old soil, wick, and roots. You'll find that you don't have to be gentle.

- Place the trailer over the new pot and let it drop (gently) into the new pot. Remove tape and ease off the cardboard support.

Unlike a standard, the trailer is placed lower in a pot to partly cover the old crown. Once secure in new pot, a trailer can be groomed (too difficult over barrel.) Lightly scratching the underside of crowns encourages new roots. Once in the new pot, this is a good time to carefully remove outer crowns if you want a smaller plant. (Place removed crowns in soil and cover with plastic to grow new plants.) Try to get all crowns within the new pot. Anchor down with paper clips, straw, swizzle sticks, etc. (must be removed prior to show).

### Mold Potting:

Prepare the bottom of a clean pot with moist soil and wick if desired. Place a small pot within larger (e.g., 3" pot inside 4" pot) and pack with as much new soil on the sides as possible. Remove the smaller pot and set plant. (With a large standard, I anticipate that 1/3 of new soil will be on the bottom, 1/3 for roots in the middle, and 1/3 to fill in the top of the pot to the rim).

# AVSA Bylaws Amendment

Amendment proposed by AVSA Bylaws Committee to AVSA Bylaws Article V Section 5b. The proposed amendment, if adopted, would aid the Nominating Committee as it would provide more time for applications to be solicited and the committee to function.

## Current Bylaws

### Article V - NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

Section 5b - Election of the chairman shall be at the first meeting of the Executive Committee during the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin at the conclusion of the annual business meeting of the convention at which the committee was formed.

## Proposed amendment:

### Article V - NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

Section 5b - The chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee prior to the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin upon election.

## Rationale

This would lengthen the period of time for the Nominating Committee to function. The chairman would have additional time to gather applications prior to the election of the remainder of the committee. If the term began upon election, the committee could legitimately meet during the convention when face-to-face discussion might expedite their selection of candidates.

Mary Lou Harden

*Chairman for AVSA Bylaws Committee*

902 W. Old Hillsborough

Seffner, FL 33584

[mlh@ij.net](mailto:mlh@ij.net)

## Committee Members:

Christel H. Collier

Ruth Goeke

Bob Green

Sue Ramser

Lynne Wilson



## Springtime in the Queen City

by Penny Wichman

Aah....spring. The robins return. The tulips and daffodils are in full bloom. The Forsythia, lilac bushes, and magnolia trees are starting to show color. The snowball bush finally is a sea of white pompoms....no more snow. Springtime in greater Cincinnati is a beautiful awakening after all those long winter months of dark dreary days. In the spring of 2005, "Violets will reign in the Queen City."

The old adage "April showers bring May flowers" is usually true, so you might want to pack an umbrella. However, we do have our share of sunny days with temperatures in the 70's. You will need to bring a jacket though, because our final frost date isn't until Mother's Day, so it can get cool at night. Bring a comfortable pair of walking shoes so you can take a walk around the beautiful grounds of the Drawbridge Inn and enjoy our fresh spring air.

If you think that we've covered a lot of weather possibilities, you're right. There's an old saying here in Cincinnati in the spring - "If you don't like the weather, wait a minute; it will change." Don't worry, if you can't enjoy the great outdoors, we have lots of fun things to do inside in the spring.

The Krohn Conservatory is only a short drive away. Nationally known for its beautiful seasonal displays, Krohn always has a wonderful spring display along with their butterfly show, where the butterflies are right in the open among the people and flowers. Also, there's Newport on the Levee, where you can have lunch in an Irish pub or grab a hamburger at Johnny Rockets. You can shop in one of the many specialty stores or just enjoy the view of the Ohio River. Newport Aquarium is also located there, where you can spend a couple of hours exploring the unique, the bizarre, and the beautiful from the oceans around the world and from the local river's edge. Both are completely handicap and wheelchair accessible, with lots of places to sit and rest along the way.

If you do not have access to a car, don't worry. The local public transit company, known as TANK, picks up right outside the main lobby, and the fares are only \$1.00 each way. Schedules are available at the desk, or, of course, you could go along with us on many of the great tours we have planned. Whatever the case, bring some comfortable, casual clothes so you can enjoy springtime in the Queen City.

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary J. Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

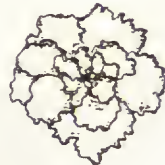
**FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Annabelle, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best Standard: Ode to Beauty; Best Design, **Allene Peek**. Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder, **Joanie Sleeper**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gail Elmore**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ozark Petunia'; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Walbrick**.

**GRANITE STATE AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, MA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Anita Vivian, Optimara EverPraise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Holly Walker**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Antique Rose, Boo Man; Best Semiminiature: Boo Man; Best Miniature: Lil Ballerina; Best Trailer: Chantaspring; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea parryorum*, **Lisa DiMambro**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Clark**.

**MILWAUKEE AVC, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Optimara Cezanne, Anastasia; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time, **Bonnie Henell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Jamaica, Debon's Raspberry Fluff, Aca's Wewonchu; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rebel's Meg, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Sea Spray; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Joker'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Ebony, Dangerous, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave, **Ted Bergine**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Cathy Heider**.

**SOUTH DAKOTA AVC, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzler, Dumplin', Chinook Wind; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Extravaganza; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola* var. 'Cha Simba'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **B.J. Ohme**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Buffalo Hunt, Optimara Chagall; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Aunt Georgia, Classic Rock; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Carol Tjaden**. Best Trailer: Indian Trail, **Fern Hildinger**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia concinna*, **David Harris**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Dunlap**.

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Debon's Raspberry Fluff, Ma's Soiree, Fisher's Leone; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Rob's Bed Bug; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Ebe Schreiber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Wonder Twin, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Rob's Jitterbug; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Betty Schreiber**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot, **Kevin Degner**. Best Trailer: Foster Trail, **Cathy Heider**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Ruth Mengsol**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Christmas Morning', **Rose and Jim Haberkorn**.





**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
 2855 Gayle Lane  
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
 Email: [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net)

## AROUND THE WORLD

I remember a movie of many years ago. It was called "Around The World in 80 Days". Well, we did the same thing last spring in 35 days. What was the best thing about going around the world? The people and the many cultures we found, my ride on a peace loving elephant, and a scary ride on a belligerent camel. (No not a two hump, just one hump). What was the worst thing? The security. We were watched like hawks, complete with armed men and gunboats. What was the second worst thing you might ask? It was 'No African violets anywhere'. Not even in the florist shops. I thought it should be a great place to start an African Violet Society! I did find some people on the ship, from other coun-

tries, to talk 'Violets' with. Good, but just not the same as finding them to drool over. Let's just say I missed my greenhouse and all of the Gesneriad family.

How many of you are signed up for the online groups on the Internet? I don't subscribe because I just don't have time to read all the information. I do, however, have a friend who forwards any information dealing with Vintage Violets. Is there anyone out there that can let me know who the kind person is that is sending out my 'Wanted List' over Internet email groups?

Are you growing any of the following? I have people looking for them.

## AVSA Most Wanted

Alan Anthony  
 Alouette  
 Andrea  
 Atlantic City  
 Bella Gitana  
 Blue Chips  
 Cinnamon Girl

Evergreen Sadie Lady  
 Genetic Dwarf  
 Granger's Charl  
 Green Crystal  
 My Desire  
 Optimara Compassion  
 Pistachio

Rainbows Emerald Frost  
 Rainbows Fuji Gold  
 Richter's Wedgewood  
 Rob's Miss Priss  
 Rococo Orchid Blue  
 Rococo Rose  
 Rococo White

Sport of Red Erika  
 Stripped Honey  
 Tipt, Wheels of Fortune  
 Yarrow Briar Rose  
 Zulu

## Annual Luncheon Auction

**Edna Rourke**

99 Old Stratford Road Shelton, CT 06484-6129 • (203) 926-9716 • email [Apapillon@aol.com](mailto:Apapillon@aol.com)

**A special request to all of our members, hybridizers and affiliates**

Can you believe it - this will be our 8th AVSA Luncheon Auction. We will be holding our luncheon on Friday, April 22, and, as always, we need your help. We had a wonderful auction last year, and with your continued help and generosity, it will be even more exciting this year. Our success is a tribute to the many generous donations of our members, hybridizers, and affiliates.

Many of our affiliates have a great deal of talented craftsmen who have donated items to the auction - will you again consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming

auction? Hybridizers - donations of newly introduced plant material and/or supplies is one of the highlights everyone looks forward to seeing and would be most appreciated. Donations of anything violet related of a rare, unique, or unusual nature would gratefully accepted.

If you plan to make a donation or want to help in some way, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks for your help and continued support - it really makes all the difference. See you in Cincinnati!

# Registration Report



**Janice Bruns**  
1220 Stratford Lane  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
Email: janice@qwip.net

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

**Yvonne Lambert – Tottenham, Ontario, Canada**

\***Von's Moon Shadows** (9359) 8/2/04 (Y. Lambert) Single lavender and white sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

**John Brownlie – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada**

\***Aca's Raspberry Rapture** (9360) 8/7/04 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink frilled pansy/raspberry fantasy, edge. **Variegated** green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**

**Dolores Harrington – Fridley, MN**

\***Blue Blazes** (9361) 8/16/04 (D. Harrington) Semidouble blue pansy/thin white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, pointed, quilted/red back. **Miniature**

\***Dolores' Royal Prince** (9362) 8/16/04 (D. Harrington) Semidouble purple-red pansy/white edge. Light green, heart-shaped, pointed, quilted, pebbled, scalloped/red back. **Miniature**

\***Haley Jordan** (9363) 8/16/04 (D. Harrington) Double pink frilled/light purple eye. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, pebbled, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

**Nancy Braun – Madison, WI**

\***Debon's April Airs** (9364) 9/24/04 (N. Braun) Single white and pink large ruffled star/fuchsia rays, edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

\***Debon's Misty Morning** (9365) 9/24/04 (N. Braun) Semidouble-double white pansy/wide lavender-blue edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

\***Debon's Rosey Posey** (9366) 9/24/04 (N. Braun) Single chimera pink pansy/red stripe. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

**David Senk – Mission Viejo, CA**

\***Alchemy Antique Bells** (9367) 9/24/04 (D. Senk) Single light yellow ruffled bell. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped. **Miniature**

\***Alchemy Gold** (9368) 9/24/04 (D. Senk) Single yellow sticktite bell. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**

\***Alchemy Yellow Star** (9369) 9/24/04 (D. Senk) Single yellow bell/variable purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

**Shirley Sanders – San Antonio, TX**

\***Shirl's Blue Eyes** (9370) 9/30/04 (S. Sanders) Single pale blue pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, pointed. **Semiminiature**

\***Shirl's Cranberry Smoothie** (9371) 9/30/04 (S. Sanders) Single cranberry two-tone pansy. **Variegated** dark green and pink, pointed. **Semiminiature**

\***Shirl's Hawaiian Lei** (9372) 9/30/04 (S. Sanders) Single purple pansy/white eye. **Variegated** medium green and white, heart-shaped. **Miniature**

\***Shirl's Plum Jam** (9373) 9/30/04 (S. Sanders) Semidouble-double plum-red ruffled pansy. **Variegated** light green and white, heart-shaped. **Miniature**

\***Shirl's Red Sky** (9374) 9/30/04 (S. Sanders) Single light red pansy/white eye. **Variegated** dark green and pink, pointed. **Semiminiature**

\***Shirl's Senior Moment** (9375) 9/30/04 (S. Sanders) Single-semidouble purple pansy. **Variegated** light green and white, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

**Fay Wagman – Pittsford, NY**

\***Fay's Rachel** (9376) 9/30/04 (F. Wagman) Single-semidouble chimera red/white stripe. **Crown variegated** green and cream, serrated, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

## NAME RESERVATIONS

**Beth Meadows – El Mirage, AZ**

\* Celtic Broadsword \* Celtic Harp \* Celtic Heather \* Celtic Kevin's Crown \* Celtic King \* Celtic Maid \* Celtic Mist \* Celtic Sunset \* Celtic Tartan \* Celtic Warrior \*

**Tina Moreno – Brighton, CO**

\* Vespa Angel Wings \* Vespa Azul \* Vespa Blanca \* Vespa Fairy Dust \* Vespa Free Flight \* Vespa Heartthrob \* Vespa Rosa \* Vespa Sensation \* Vespa Sting \* Vespa Vino \*

# Small Talk



**Laurel D. Goretsky**  
32 Scimitar Point N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
T3L 2B2  
*Email: Laurel@Goretsky.ca*

I want to begin by thanking Pat Richards for providing many years of inspiration in her column "Thinking Small". Her insights into growing miniature and semiminature African violets are a great resource for anyone growing these precious gems.

I used to be an African violet killer! I am embarrassed to divulge that information, but it is true. I would get plants from a friend of mine, who grows amazing violets, and weeks later I would have another dead plant. My friend would come over to see how my violets were doing only to discover empty pots and saucers. Thankfully, my "friend" became my husband seven years ago, and I began to learn the joys of growing and caring for African violets. Although I still occasionally have a casualty or two, the carnage of dead violets has ceased!

I enjoy all African violets and gesneriads and grow many varieties. My favorites are semiminature and miniature trailers. From the smallest of miniatures to the larger sprawling semiminis, trailers provide many rewards to their growers. One of the benefits of growing trailers is their relative ease to get started. Often, trailers can be purchased as a small crown, which for the new grower or less experienced, can be easier to work with. Results are usually seen quickly, and there is none of the worry of separating delicate baby plantlets. The more growth from the original plant crown, the better, or in other words, the more crowns the better. For the more experienced grower, trailers tend to be a lot more forgiving and not need as much of your time. That is not to say that they don't need attention. They need to be watered and inspected for any problems during your regular maintenance schedule; however, they don't need to be repotted as often or groomed to be symmetrical like most single crowned violets. For those of us with busy schedules or more violets than we know what to do with, the mini and semimini trailers are a "must have".

Picking a miniature or semiminature trailer to grow requires the same technique you would use to choose other African violets. I am most often motivated by sight. If I like how it looks in the show room or in the magazine, I might

list the plant as one to get. Information on varieties that are good growers is also a consideration. A great source to find out which trailers are consistently good growing plants is the AVSA Best Variety List and the AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets. 'Milky Way Trail' is a semi miniature trailer that has been on the Best Variety List frequently, and therefore, has made it to the Honor Roll. One of my first semimini trailers was a table favor at the auction luncheon at the Houston convention (1999). I still grow that plant, which is 'Foster Trail', and it remains a favorite. Whether you acquire your plant from a friend or from careful research, be adventurous and try something different.

Once you have received your mini or semimini trailer, in its initial pot, you can begin to think about the type of pot you will move your trailer in to. The type of pot you choose depends on how the trailer tends to grow. For example, 'Teeny Bopper' is a tiny growing miniature trailer so you would most likely grow it in a 2 1/2 or 3 inch pot or a small bulb pan. What is visually appealing to you is also important to think about when deciding upon potting up. I really enjoy seeing trailers grown in shallow pans similar to how dish gardens are presented. I have been growing 'Rob's Humpty Doo' in this manner for approximately six months, and if I am feeling gloomy, just having a look at this plant can lift my spirits. Some people like to grow their trailers in hanging baskets. Again, find out how the trailer that you have picked typically grows and then be creative in your potting choices.

With the 2005 convention just around the corner, now is a good time to look through your collection and give some thought to any miniature or semiminature trailers you might have to show. If you don't have any of these small treasures in your collection and you want to enter a trailer class at convention, be sure to purchase plants at least three months before show time.

I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for this column. Please feel free to email or write to me. Until next time, beat the winter blahs and share some violet cheer.

# Winter Care of Violets and Gesneriads

by Sue Hodges

The weather has been very mild so far this winter, but the cold change could be just around the corner! Indoor temperatures may cause some problems for our plants if they fall below about 55 degrees F overnight. Usually, violets are happy in conditions in which we are comfortable, but problems sometimes arise in rooms where heating is turned off and the room cools overnight. If plants are too cold, the leaves may curl down around the pot and growth will be slow. Sometimes, the center growth will become tight.

Some who grow under lights enclose their stands in plastic sheeting for winter or use plastic drapes that will enclose the stand at night. This will conserve warmth and humidity and protect the plants.

Beware of cold drafts and protect plants that grow on windowsills from cold at night by drawing curtains or blinds so the plants are not against the cold glass over night. In cold weather the plants will not be growing so rapidly, and they will use less water. Wicks can be removed from water containers so that plants are not over-watered. However, be aware that heated rooms, especially those that are air conditioned, are drier. Plants in these situations can dry out more quickly. In fact, these plants may need more water than at other times of the year.

In winter the days are shorter with less intense light, which can mean fewer flowers particularly if you grow in natural light. A south facing aspect will get plenty of light in winter, maybe even too much as direct midday sun can burn the

foliage quite quickly, but it is fine through a sheer curtain. Plants at a north facing window will probably not get sufficient light to bloom until the days lengthen. If you grow under artificial light, you are able to control the amount of light your plants receive.

Drastic repotting is best left until it is warmer when the plant will recover more quickly. If you cannot avoid repotting, enclose the plant to minimize shock, which can cause white marks on the foliage. Delicate plants would probably benefit from being kept in a terrarium for the coldest part of winter.

Variegated plants will show more variegation during winter, and it is wise to leave propagation of variegated plants until spring unless you have very warm conditions. Winter growth will often lack chlorophyll, and young plantlets may not survive. Plants with crown type variegation sometimes worry growers when the winter growth is yellow or very pale and the older summer foliage is green, but this is the nature of the plant.

Winter does have some compensation! Cooler conditions mean better bloom color, better fantasy markings, and more distinct edges to edged blooms. Some plants, like 'Marching Band', are better in winter as they do not perform well in the heat so enjoy them now - it will soon be warm again!

From *African Violet News*, Official Journal of the African Violet-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.



## AVSA College Scholarship



It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce the guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship, available for the fourth year. The award is for \$500 to \$1000 which may be used for tuition, books, or fees.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program or in a graduate program of an accredited University or College.
- Applicants should be majoring in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.
- Applicants should have a minimum "B" average and completed at least 24 semester or quarter hour credits by the beginning of the spring, 2005 semester.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund of AVSA.

Applications can be downloaded from the AVSA web site, [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org), or may be ordered from the AVSA Office: AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

Application deadline is March 1, 2005. All completed applications should be sent to Dr. Elmer Godeny, 7004 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

# African Violet New Year's Resolutions You Can Make – and KEEP!

by Richard Follett

We have all experienced New Year's resolutions that come and go with varying degrees of success. I have yet to get any thinner, save any more of my earnings, or to permanently alter any undesirable habits by making and sticking to these well-intentioned exercises in futility, but each year I renew my efforts to effect change through positive thinking and resolve. Call it folly, but I BELIEVE.

One small area of my life where making New Year's resolutions has actually *worked* is in managing my African violet collection. It is no fun to see beloved plants languishing from neglect or poor planning; for their sake, I have been able to make and to stick to a few simple resolutions over the years and my AVs thank me again and again with beautiful blooms and ease of culture. Following, then, is brief list of those resolutions which have brought me the best results over time. I cannot promise you that any of them are easy to stick to, but I *can* promise you that the rewards are immediate and significant. For your consideration, then:

1. Grow the type of African violets most appropriate to your available space and light. Minis and semi-minis are much better candidates for windowsill growing than standards or larges. Know your space, your light, and your limitations and work within them. Your AVs will thank you!
2. Avoid the temptation to overcrowd your plants. AVs crowded too close together bloom poorly and are more prone to diseases and pests. If you cannot view your AVs from above and see the outline of each plant clearly, you are overcrowding them. Give some away and share the joy!
3. Be honest with yourself about your AV habits. Standards and larges will tolerate occasional neglect far better than minis or semi-minis. Dry out a mini once, and it is HISTORY! If you tend to be forgetful, choose tried-and-true varieties that have made frequent appearances on 'best variety' lists – they got there for a reason!
4. Regardless of how much space you have for growing, grow only as many plants as you can examine personally at least once each week. Filling a light stand with three hundred wick-watered plants is exciting and virtually irresistible, but if you just water the capillary matting once a week and walk away, how much enjoyment are you really getting anyway? BEFRIEND each of your African violet plants and examine each one regularly – you can spot pests and diseases much more quickly and save yourself a lot of frustration and heartache later on.
5. If you don't know what you are going to do with the progeny, don't put down the leaf. This one will drive you insane at first, because the 'miracle of the leaf' is truly intoxicating and addictive. If you are hopelessly hooked on propagation (as I am), find outlets for the fruits of

your labors – join a club and share with other members, or make monthly donations to senior centers, hospitals, etc. How about giving plantlets to the local high school science department as a class project?

6. If you don't know where you are going to put that new AV, don't bring it home. It is uncanny how our minds tell us there are only four AVs in a kitchen window that is, in actuality, harboring a dozen or more. If this is really a challenge for you, keep a list of your plants and where they 'live', in your purse or glove compartment. If your AV hotel is all booked up and you fall in love, decide what you are going to give away before you make your new purchase and STICK TO THE PLAN.
7. If a favorite AV throws twelve suckers, why grow all twelve? Unless you are looking for a wash of one color for interior design purposes, you can make much more aesthetically interesting use of your available space with a variety of colors and foliage types. There is no documented case of genetically identical AVs suffering separation anxiety. Give the extras to good homes!
8. Find something you are good at and stick with it. Experimenting with new hybrids is always fun and exciting, but too much of a good thing inevitably leads to frustration and disappointment. Different types of AVs require different types of care. Try ONE variegated variety or ONE clacamas or ONE trailer for at least a year before you invest in every conceivable variation on the theme. If you limit your experiments to one focus at a time, you will eventually determine what type of AV suits both your taste and your ability without becoming an AV assassin in the process. I killed everything in the Buckeye series at least three times before I figured out that minis and trailers are my AV 'forte'!
9. If a chosen plant does not grow well for you by the time you have had it for six months, PITCH IT OR GIVE IT AWAY. There is a user-friendly AV out there just waiting to grow for you dependably and enthusiastically.
10. LOVE your African violets. They know. If you can't love them and really mean it, buy a silk plant and try again when your outlook is more positive. Long-necked, neglected AVs languishing on a dusty windowsill will depress anybody. If you are truly burned out or overburdened and give yourself a hiatus, you will allow some future AV lover the unbridled joy of getting you started again. African violets are a bit like stray cats – somehow, they know when you are ready and THEY will find YOU.

Pick even one of these resolutions, stick to it, and your African violets will show their appreciation more and more with each passing day. Good luck and good growing!

# Tools and Their Uses for Growing African Violets

*Below is an edited, expanded version of a list prepared by members of the Emerald Necklace AVC (Boston, MA) to assist in setting up an Educational Display. Emphasis has been placed on using reasonably-priced items or items available around the house.*

Marie Montague

## **Watering Can with Long Spout or Turkey Baster**

To water under leaves to prevent marring and keep water from crowns.

## **Tweezers or Small Scissors**

Removal of spent blossoms, petioles, and suckers. Surgical tweezers work best because they have a long handle and curved end. These are available at fabric stores, surgical stores, and at trade shows. Cuticle scissors also work well and come in all sizes.

## **Grooming Brush**

Excellent for removing dust and soil from leaves. Commercially available but good substitutes are cosmetic brushes, and less expensive, small paint brushes. Paint brushes come in all sizes and run from soft to coarse fibers. Violet leaves are not sensitive to light brushing.

## **Labels**

To identify potted plants or baby leaves - commercial plastic labels, small paper labels placed directly on leaves or masking tape on pots.

## **Permanent Marker**

Write on labels, e.g., "Sharpie", permanent, ultra fine. Anything but a permanent marker will wear off eventually. When going to show or plant sale, cut down an address label and place on your "Sharpie" to identify as yours so it will go home with you.

## **Razor Blade, Box Cutter or "Xacto" Knife**

To cut leaves on diagonal for propagation. Use care with these products.

## **2 1/2" Plastic Cups**

Inexpensive pots to set leaves. "Solo" cups with drainage holes made in bottom work best (these are getting hard to find but still available in small, independent markets.) Cover cup with sandwich bag or place in covered tray and you have your own little greenhouse.

## **Wicking Containers**

Allows you to place a plant above water. Use imagination, e.g., plastic food containers with a hole cut in cover or cut-down soda and water bottles.

## **Wicking Material**

Provides contact between plant and wicking container. Suggestions: 1) Nylon stockings (pantyhose) cut in thin strips. As a starting point, cut in 1/8" strips and pull before using. The cheaper the pantyhose the better the wicking action, fashion pantyhose with sheen do not work as well. Ask family and friends to save used pantyhose. They will be thrilled to help you with your hobby. 2) Yarn, and 3) String. Both yarn and string can be separated by ply for thinner strips.

## **Plastic Trays with Covers**

Container for wicking many small plants. Commercially available "Perma-Nest" trays with covers are great. Again, use your imagination. Many discount stores have square boxes with clear covers. "Rubbermade" makes an excellent

product (15" X 22" X 6" deep) with a clear cover that is reasonably priced when on sale. These are also great to transport sales plants. Don't forget small shoe boxes and large pastry containers. Plastic wrap can be used if covers are not available.

## **Wick Matting**

Liner for trays to water many plants and retain moisture. Matting is commercially available and reasonably priced. Acrylic blanket material also works well (cotton will rot.) Matting will last for decades if laundered.

## **Magnifying Glass**

Provides a close-up look to check for powdery mildew and pests. Inexpensive, light-weight, small magnifying glasses can be found at your local pharmacy.

## **Seam Ripper**

Poke holes in "Solo" cups for drainage. Five or six small holes will do it and 2 or 3 cups can be done at one time.

## **Fiber Glass Screen, Paper Towels or Coffee Filters**

To cover drainage holes in pots.

## **Swizzle Stick**

Great for marking the front or back of a pot to make sure that you turn plants when watering. Swizzle sticks are also great for moving leaves when grooming.

## **Liquid Lysol with Soap**

Excellent for controlling powdery mildew. Mix **just 1/4 tsp.** in a gallon of water and water plants or fill wicking containers. Treat plants in late fall, whether you see powdery mildew or not. This is a preventive measure. In the Northeast, one treatment seems to work, but in other parts of the country more frequent treatments might be necessary.

## **Bleach Water**

A weak solution of bleach and water is an excellent sterilizing agent.

- Soak dirty pots - include your "Solo" cups as well; they are stronger than they look.
- Toss in your plastic labels; bleach eventually removes permanent ink.
- Wash your matting material in the washing machine with a little bleach.

Use care when using bleach; you can ruin a good outfit with one splash of bleach.

## **Plant Stands**

Provide full spectrum of light using fluorescent bulbs (one cool white bulb and one Gro-Lux in fixture is recommended.) Commercially available, but as an inexpensive alternative, "Costco" and other warehouse chains carry reasonably-priced 48" metal racks that serve as excellent plant stands and are attractive enough to be placed in a living room. These are not difficult to assemble, and the shelves can be moved up and down as needs change. Light fixtures can be attached with "S" hooks directly to the shelves. Add an inexpensive timer and you are set to go.

# A Family Portrait



**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071  
Email: georgena@verizon.net

This gesneriad just keeps getting better and better. *Petrocosmea* (pet-roe-KOS-mee-ah) *parryorum* (pair-ree-OR-um) has the most beautiful light green hairy, soft, foliage and produces dozens of delicate, tiny violet flowers. The word *Petrocosmea* means "adornment of rocks" which should give a clue to the growing conditions from which it comes. The soil mix should be light, and the plant must have lots of moving air.

The morning of our exhibit was very chill, about 50 degrees. All the edges of each leaf turned brown, but, the plant did not die. It is still blooming a month later. I think it needs to stay about 75 to 80 degrees all the time. It blooms best in the fall of the year. The foliage bleaches out easily so keep it at least 12 inches from the fluorescent tubes. It gets the same fertilizer as my violets and is replanted about every six months.

## IVAN THE TERRIBLE

As I was doing this illustration, Hurricane Ivan was providing 10 inches of rain in 12 hours. My town of Oakdale lost all 37 businesses and 109 homes to horrific flood waters. My home was not damaged, and I have been serving food and cooking for others for two weeks straight. We don't appreciate things until they are gone; no post office, grocery, gas station, hardware, dentist, bank, or any other business. This is the most devastation I have ever seen, but the best human compassion I could imagine. No one could or would help us so we started our own relief center. My plants have suffered because I could not take care of them. I was going to grow plants for the Ohio convention, but there is always another beautiful plant on the horizon. After tour-



*Petrocosmea parryorum*

ing the ravaged town, I came home and spent an hour with my plants just to recoup my spirits. They are such good therapy.

## HEALTHY ACHIMENES

Ingrid Bowman has emailed me reporting that the *Achimenes* that had mealy bugs last year were completely healthy this year. So, the rhizomes must not carry the mealy bugs. She put down the rhizomes in March and they bloomed in two months. She will continue to watch them. Thanks for sharing.

## MIGHTY MITES

During the last year, a lady in our club has had a problem with her plants. The centers just seem to disappear and there is no bloom. The plant just stands there doing nothing. She has sprayed with everything and used vaponas pest strips to no avail. While talking to a friend, the subject came up. She told me that there is "almost an epidemic" of broad mite among growers, and many people have lost their entire collection of plants. These mites seem to have developed a resistance to pesticides and insecticides.

So, here is a word to the wise. ISOLATE every leaf individually and bag it. ISOLATE every plant in its own bag for at least six months. Make sure you keep it sealed tightly. When I have purchased plants in the past, I just put them together in their own covered tray. From now on they will each have a large baggie over them. I know this is a "pain" at watering time but don't take a chance.

Having all my plants in containers or covered trays has been wonderful because I can see and contain any bug before it spreads.

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from August 1, 2004 – September 30, 2004

|                                                   |         |                                                  |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Arklahoma AVS, Mountainburg, AR .....             | \$10.00 | Las Flores Del Sol Garden Club, CA .....         | \$25.00 |
| <i>In memory of Maula Jalaliddin</i>              |         | <i>In lieu of a speaker's fee to Leonard Re</i>  |         |
| Bahamas AVS .....                                 | 15.00   | Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX .....     | 25.00   |
| Cynthia Sewell, Lawrenceville, GA .....           | 10.00   | Metropolitan Regional Council of                 |         |
| Cynthia L. Lere, Flagstaff, AZ .....              | 10.00   | AV Judges, East Northport, NY .....              | 1.00    |
| Evelyn E. Stein, Tracy, CA .....                  | 25.00   | Penny L. Smith-Kerker, Austin, TX .....          | 27.00   |
| Sherin Boyd, Saint John, Canada .....             | 10.00   | Des Moines Evening AV Club, Des Moines, IA ..... | 20.00   |
| Montrose AVS, Glendale, CA .....                  | 10.00   | <i>In memory of Max Olson</i>                    |         |
| <i>In memory of Eleanor Kemble</i>                |         | <i>In memory of Bea Appell</i>                   |         |
| AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA .....       | 50.00   | Betty Smith, Hudson, WI .....                    | 25.00   |
| <i>In lieu of a speaker's fee to Janet Riemer</i> |         | AVC of Morris County New Jersey .....            | 20.00   |
| AV Judge's Council of Southern California .....   | 25.00   | Ms. Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA .....          | 10.00   |
| <i>In memory of Joseph Kosowsky</i>               |         | Louise King, Sun City, AZ .....                  | 15.00   |
| New York State Council of AV Judges .....         | 5.00    | Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD .....          | 5.00    |
| Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA .....             | 3.00    | Agatha Garrison, Estancia, NM .....              | 5.00    |
| Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK .....            | 10.00   | Sarah Opie, Callington, England .....            | 5.00    |

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029

email: MWalbrick@aol.com

### Donations Received

#### October 2004

|                                                          |                 |                                                    |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| AVC of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ .....                | \$20.00         | AVS of Greater Tulsa, Broken Arrow, OK .....       | \$50.00         |
| Bergen County African Violet Society, Matwah, NJ .....   | 15.00           | AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL .....              | 25.00           |
| <i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee to Fred Hill</i>             |                 | Sundowners AVC, Madison, WI .....                  | 10.00           |
| New York State Council of AV Judges, Lafayette, NJ ..... | 5.00            | Sundowners AVC, Madison, WI .....                  | 25.00           |
| The African Violet Society of                            |                 | Triangle AVS, Raleigh, NC .....                    | 30.00           |
| Staten Island, Staten Island, NY .....                   | 25.00           | Art & Mary Boland, Alexandria, VA .....            | 100.00          |
| <i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee to Karyn Cichocki</i>        |                 | <i>In Memory of Paula Foster, a great lady</i>     |                 |
| Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD .....                  | 5.00            | Doris & John Brownlie, Mississauga, ON .....       | 25.00           |
| Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK .....                   | 10.00           | <i>In Memory of Paula Foster</i>                   |                 |
| Eva Terry, Hagarville, AR .....                          | 5.00            | John & Nancy Hayes, Bloomfield, CT .....           | 50.00           |
| Martha Hart, Rochester, NY .....                         | 20.00           | <i>In Memory of Paula Foster</i>                   |                 |
| Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA .....                      | 10.00           | Ralph Mancusi, Orange Park, FL .....               | 5.00            |
| Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA .....                      | 25.00           | Ronald M. Patterson, Naples, FL .....              | 10.00           |
| Martha Menard, Murphysboro, IL .....                     | 5.00            | Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN .....                  | 10.00           |
| Harriet K. Morgan, Manhattan, MT .....                   | 5.00            | Howard Royce, Wall Township, NJ .....              | 10.00           |
| Sarah Opie, Callington, Cornwall Pl, England .....       | 5.00            | Janet Royce, Wall Township, NJ .....               | 10.00           |
| Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA .....                    | 3.00            | George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX .....        | 5.00            |
| Wilma J. Wolverton, Grain Valley, MO .....               | 5.00            | Byron & Martha Turner, Dallas, TX .....            | 100.00          |
| <b>TOTAL .....</b>                                       | <b>\$163.00</b> | <i>In Memory of Paula Foster, a dear friend</i>    |                 |
|                                                          |                 | Melanie Turner, Dallas, TX .....                   | 75.00           |
|                                                          |                 | <i>In Memory of Paula Foster</i>                   |                 |
|                                                          |                 | Pete & Mary Walbrick, Wichita Falls, TX .....      | 50.00           |
|                                                          |                 | <i>In Memory of Paula Foster, a special friend</i> |                 |
|                                                          |                 | <b>TOTAL .....</b>                                 | <b>\$615.00</b> |

#### November 2004

|                                                 |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| AVC of Burlington County, Willingboro, NJ ..... | \$25.00 |
| <i>In Lieu of Speaker's Fees: Fred Hill</i>     |         |

## AVSA Booster Fund

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd-196E • Sebring, FL 33872

CONTRIBUTIONS: August 1, 2004 – September 30, 2004

|                                                             |         |                                                  |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS .....                              | \$25.00 | Late Bloomers AVS, Juda, WI .....                | \$15.00        |
| Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY .....                            | 10.00   | Cynthia L. Lere, Flagstaff, AZ .....             | 10.00          |
| <i>In memory of Marian Clyne</i>                            |         | Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges ..... | 1.00           |
| Glenview/North Shore AVS, Glenview, IL .....                | 15.00   | Amy Cash-Allison, Montgomery, IL .....           | 10.00          |
| <i>In lieu of gas money for Gary Miketa</i>                 |         | <i>In memory of Carlee Isaac</i>                 |                |
| Mid-Polk AVS, Winter Haven, FL .....                        | 10.00   | <b>TOTAL .....</b>                               | <b>\$96.00</b> |
| <i>In memory of Joyce Lillard, member Lee Kuhn's sister</i> |         |                                                  |                |

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
Email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)

Here's a question:

Are you really asked those questions, or do you "make them up"?

Yes and no. Having shipped or sold plants to tens (hundreds?) of thousands of customers, attended hundreds of shows, given hundreds of talks, and attended hundreds of club meetings, questions are never a problem. Of course, it's the same handful of questions dealing with basic culture that we have to answer 99% of the time. This makes coming up with "new" questions difficult. Fortunately, no two questions are ever exactly alike. The problems experienced may appear identical, but the growing practices of no two growers are identical - only similar enough for us to draw conclusions and offer possible solutions. This makes the answers less profound - not insightful, but the accumulation of the experiences (good and bad) of thousands of other growers. After nearly 30 years, we can anticipate the question almost as easily as we can the answer, but this still doesn't lessen the importance of either to a grower facing a problem for the first time.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsvioletaol.com](mailto:robsvioletaol.com) or via our web-site at [www.violetbarn.com](http://www.violetbarn.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** *I just wanted to know if African violets are poisonous to dogs. Our puppy just ate a couple of leaves and my sister-in-law said she thinks that the plant could even be fatal to our pet. I've been checking for information but can't find a thing .... I hope that's a good sign.*

**ANSWER:** To our knowledge (and from our experience),

African violets are not poisonous to most household pets. Over the course of time, we've had both dogs and cats eat leaves of our violets. Usually, African violet leaves aren't all that "tasty" and will be left alone - after a bite or two, the chewed-upon plant is left alone. You may also have to clean up a mess a bit later, if your pet decides to cough-up whatever it did consume. Besides having to deal with the hair left behind on the plants, this is the reason none of our cats are allowed to spend time in the growing area, and why our living area has so few plants. Fortunately, our dog, Lucy, spends much of her day with us in the growing area, but seems disinterested in the plants.

As with people, it's possible to have an allergic reaction to almost anything in some cases, but this is not likely with African violets, and eating a leaf or two is very unlikely to prove fatal. If your plants had recently been treated with something toxic, like pesticides, then there's more reason for concern. A small amount of residual pesticide on the plant isn't likely to be fatal, but it certainly might make your pet ill. It would depend upon the toxicity of the chemical, how much it had "broken down" since it was applied, and the size and tolerance of your pet for the chemical. In any event, this is one more reason to limit the use of such chemicals in the home-keep the bottle and the treated plants away from children and pets! That said, if the plant wasn't just recently acquired, has been in your collection for a while, and you haven't applied anything toxic to it yourself, this shouldn't be a worry.

**QUESTION:** *I am new to growing and collecting violets. I recently purchased a violet that is totally different than anything I have ever seen before. It has different color blooms. Some blooms are purple, others are pink, some are light blue, and some are similar to the blooms of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot'. Is this unusual or common?*

**ANSWER:** Yes and no. It is unusual, but not unheard of,

especially for a variety like 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot'. Like most multicolor varieties, this one tends to be more genetically unstable than others. The more genetically complex the variety, the more likely it is to mutate, or "sport", especially when subjected to stressful conditions. Though sometimes frustrating, this can also be a good thing - many of our favorite varieties first appeared as a mutation of another.

In the case of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot', a Richard Wasmund hybrid, there are a number of variations (it should have dark blue blooms with white splashes). Besides turning solid blue or solid pink, if the blooms are white to pale pink with blue stripes, this is 'Rainbow's Crystal Riot', and if a darker pink with darker blue stripes, 'Rainbow's Regal Riot'.

**QUESTION:** *(Asked by a visitor to the shop not more than 5 minutes ago). I just moved into a new apartment and my violets don't seem to want to bloom anymore. The foliage still looks nice and healthy. They always did well before. I'm going to use your soil mix, but do you think that they need more light too?*

**ANSWER:** Yes. If the plant is healthy, growing, and properly groomed (free of suckers), yet still doesn't flower, it's most likely not receiving enough light. This is why growing plants in windows can be tricky - there's no definitive rule about what window or exposure is best. Not every window is the same. Your objective is to provide your violets with as much bright light as possible, without subjecting it to intensely bright light or heat. With that in mind, an east window is usually a good place to start, since it provides bright light, but only a short period of direct sun in the morning. But other windows can provide good light also, depending upon obstacles outside the window that might obstruct the sunlight, climate, time of year, distance from the window, and so on. Experience and observation of your plants will tell you best what to do.

**QUESTION:** *(A phone call not more than 10 minutes ago!) What's your opinion on light meters? I grow both orchids and African violets, and a friend suggested that I purchase one for my orchids. Do you use one for your violets?*

**ANSWER:** We don't; though when I first started growing violets, and read every book on indoor gardening that I could find, I was led to believe I needed one. A light meter may be more useful for orchids, since there is a much greater difference in the light requirements of different orchid species. This is less of a problem for African violets - with small differences, most varieties have approximately the same light requirements. Once you've found how much light your violets are happy with, you duplicate these conditions as your collection expands. We don't need to provide for the special needs of a new variety added to our collection, which is not always the case with orchids.

By most measures, African violets (and most other gesneriads) are relatively low-light plants. This would place them with most phalaenopsis and paphiopedilum species, which seem to do well in the environment as violets. One reason these orchids are most frequently seen being sold along with violets at the local garden center - they do well in the same household conditions as do violets. Other orchids, like cattleya, dendrobium, and vanda, for example, typically require more light and wouldn't do nearly as well alongside violets. Adding violets to an orchid, or orchids to a violet collection requires consideration of the needs of all the plants involved. This is where growing in natural light can be useful, since the variation in light and temperature between windows can be used to your advantage.

**QUESTION:** *I have seen African violet books in other languages. Occasionally, I see plants that I know, but I can't be sure because the names are in Japanese or Chinese. How can I know whether the plants I see are the ones I think they are? Are there any rules for foreign countries to follow when translating names of violets into their own language?*

**ANSWER:** This was a question sent to the AVSA office, then referred to us for our opinion (it's been paraphrased). Being from Taiwan, and having both grown and sold violets there, Olive ("Mrs." Robinson) was asked for her opinion on the matter. Though the answer might seem more a "viewpoint" than an "answer", it is a question/problem for many of our international growers. What follows is Olive's reply, and our opinion (not necessarily that of AVSA).

I usually don't like to use translations because sometimes there is no way to translate certain names. Certain varieties will not be a problem because no matter who does the translation, the translated names will come out exactly the same. Some varieties, though (like 'Rob's Heebie Jeebie'), are cute in English but can't easily be translated into another language. Even if it were possible to translate, the original "flavor" of the name would be lost. I know, for example, that some growers in Taiwan (or Hong Kong) have translated plants with nicknames that they think are cute. The problem is that even if this translation were deemed "official", others who prefer another translation may still decide to use their own.

I can understand books being translated into other languages, but names in the books should be kept the same; otherwise, how can anyone know what plant they are talking about? My suggestion: no matter how its translated, the original hybrid name should be included, following the translated name, like we do with botanical names - for example, "lipstick vine" (*Aeschynanthus*). Whatever the language, the botanical name is always the same, in Latin. In this case, the hybridizer's original name (as it appears in the African Violet Master List), should be the official name that everybody uses.

# COMMITTEES OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Janet T. Riemer, AVSA President

[This article was originally published in two parts in July and November of 1995, updated in May and July of 1999, and is now being updated again.]

Most of the readers of this magazine, the *African Violet Magazine*, are also members of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA). A subscription to the magazine is a benefit of membership. Many members though, unless they attend convention or belong to a local affiliate, have little contact with the Society. The purpose of this article is to inform these members of one aspect of the Society, the various committees.

AVSA is a not-for-profit organization served by volunteers and paid employees. Officers, directors, and committee members are all volunteers. There are two types of committees, standing committees and special committees. Standing committees are enumerated in the AVSA Bylaws, and their chairs are members of the Board of Directors. Throughout the year these chairs report to one of the vice presidents who in turn report to the president. Special committees are created either for a very specific purpose or for a limited time period. The chairs, who report either to a standing committee chair or to an officer, are not members of the Board of Directors.

All committee chairs are appointed by the president, and their terms coincide with that of the president. Each chair has the right to select the members of his/her committee, with the guidance and approval of the president.

## Standing Committees (in alphabetical order)

**Affiliate** - The chair is responsible for affiliate group promotion, mailing informative material to affiliate groups, advising affiliates with problems on which they may need guidance, and presenting a program for convention attendees on affiliate matters.

**AVM Advertising** - The chair of this committee is the Advertising Manager. He/she is responsible for receiving all advertising copy and forwarding same to the editor of the *African Violet Magazine* in time to meet publication deadlines. Members of the committee assist, particularly in soliciting new advertisers.

**Awards** - This committee is responsible for all annual AVSA convention show awards and all individual Society awards. The chair gathers suggestions for awards, and the committee votes upon these suggestions. Some of the most prestigious awards are also voted upon by the Executive Committee.

**Commercial Activities** - The promotion of greater inter-

est in the African violet industry for the betterment of AVSA is the primary goal of this committee. Effort is made toward creating unity among the commercial members.

**Commercial Sales and Exhibits** - This committee is most active during convention, assisting the commercial members in both the sales area and in the show room. The committee also assists commercial members in promoting and improving the Society.

**Convention** - The planning and direction of all AVSA conventions are the responsibilities of this committee which is led by the Convention Director. Invitations from hosting groups are received by the Board of Directors and voted upon, usually several years in advance. If approved, the convention director contacts possible sites and negotiates with hotel properties to obtain a location that meets the Society's convention needs. The committee members assist in working with the local hosting group to insure a successful convention.

**Finance** - The preparation of a balanced budget is the primary responsibility of this committee. The budget is used for guidance during the ensuing year. Other duties include assisting the treasurer and advising on investment matters. The chair of this committee also serves on the Executive Committee.

**Library** - This committee's function involves the development, maintenance, and promotion of the Society's library materials including photographic slide programs, videos, and educational packets. Distribution of the materials, upon request from members, is handled by the Society's office staff.

**Master List of Species and Cultivars** - The primary function of this committee is the compilation of the Master List of Species and Cultivars, formerly the Master Variety List, and its annual supplements. There have been ten editions of this publication with the recent ones available in both paper form and on computer disk.

**Membership and Promotion** - Expanding, developing, and promoting the Society is the purpose of this important committee. Developing ways to increase membership worldwide is their goal.

**Nominating Committee** - A file of potential officer and director candidates is maintained by this committee. From this file is drawn a slate of officers and/or directors for each election.

**Plant Registration** - AVSA is responsible for the registration of the genus *Saintpaulia* worldwide. This authority was granted to AVSA by the Council of the International Society for Horticultural Science in 1966. This committee ascertains that all registrations are in compliance with the

International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. A registration number is assigned to each cultivar.

**Publications** - The publication of the *African Violet Magazine* and other literature authorized by the Board of Directors is the responsibility of this committee. The chair works with the editor of the magazine to ensure timely publication.

**Research** - One of the Society's primary objectives is research. This committee reviews applications from academic institutions seeking funding for the study of various aspects of Saintpaulia culture. The applications are then presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Funding is provided from the Boyce Edens Research Fund which was established specifically for that purpose.

**Shows and Judges** - This committee is responsible for all activities related to shows, judges, teachers, and judging schools. Standards of judging are developed by this committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Efforts are constantly underway to ensure that judging is as fair and consistent as possible.

### Special Committees

(in alphabetical order)

**Annual Index Committee** - The responsibility of this committee is to compile an index of each year's issues of the *African Violet Magazine*. Included in the index are authors, a combination of titles and subjects, and titles of color pictures. The index for a given year usually appears in the following January issue.

**Best Varieties List and Honor Roll Committee** - Each AVSA member and each member of an affiliate group has the privilege and the responsibility of submitting a list of 25 favorite violets annually. This committee collates all these lists into one, which is published in the *African Violet Magazine*. Those varieties appearing on the published list for three consecutive years are placed on an Honor Roll.

**Booster Fund Committee** - This committee receives and acknowledges donations which are deposited into the general treasury to help defray the Society's operating expenses. Occasional special projects are also aided by donations to the Booster Fund.

**Boyce Edens Research Fund Committee** - Individual and affiliate club donations to this fund, as well as a portion of each commercial member's dues, are used to support academic research. Acknowledgement of all donations is done by this committee. Grants to conduct research are solicited and reviewed by the Research Committee (a standing committee) and approved by the Board of Directors. Currently, interest from the investments in this fund support AVSA scholarships.

**Building Maintenance Fund Committee** - Formerly the Building Fund Committee, this fund was begun to raise money for the purchase of a site for the Society's business office. Since the acquisition of a building in Beaumont, Texas,

donations to the fund are used to provide necessary maintenance. The chair encourages and acknowledges all donations.

**Bylaws Committee** - Preparation of amendments or revisions to the Bylaws is the responsibility of this committee. Such proposals for change are presented to the Board of Directors for their approval, published in the *African Violet Magazine*, and voted upon by the membership at convention.

**Convention Manual Committee** - This committee is responsible for a manual which explains the procedures which should be followed to successfully host a national convention. The convention director plays a major role on this committee which revises the manual periodically. The manual is a means of transmitting experience from one hosting group to another.

**Guide for Affiliate Presidents & AVSA Representatives Committee** - The guide is a booklet available from the chair of the Affiliate Committee or the AVSA office for use by affiliate groups. The booklet is revised periodically, when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

**Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges Committee** - This publication by the Society is the official manual for all AVSA affiliate and convention shows. The committee revises it as needed with guidance from the Shows and Judges Chair. New editions are published when revisions become extensive.

**Internet Committee** - The creation of a website on the Internet created a need for a committee to coordinate and implement the functions associated with the maintenance of the site. Committee members promote the use of the website as a tool for AVSA affiliates and advertisers.

**Open Forum Committee** - The open forum was established to provide the AVSA membership with a means of presenting information, asking questions, and exchanging ideas with the officers, directors, and committee chairs at convention. It is held at a scheduled time and is hosted by the chair of the committee.

**Policies & Procedures Committee** - The Policies & Procedures book is a manual that guides officers, directors, and committee chairs in operating the Society. Actions taken by the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee that change the way the Society functions are incorporated in the book by this committee, chaired by the Secretary. Updating is done at least once a year.

**Resolutions Committee** - This committee is responsible for the preparation of courtesy resolutions such as thanking the convention hosts, to be read into the minutes of the annual meeting.

**Salary Committee** - Composed of the vice presidents, the treasurer, and the finance chair, this committee reviews staff salaries and presents suggestions for changes to the Board of Directors.

**Scholarship Committee** - This committee is responsible for recommending to the Board of Directors those students enrolled in a horticultural program at an accredited college or university who are worthy of an AVSA scholarship.

**Tally Time Committee** - Tally Time is an annual list of show winners of AVSA Collection Awards, Best in Show, and other top winners. These awards, from all affiliated clubs, are reported to this committee which collates the information and presents the results in an article in the March issue of the AVM.

**Technology Committee** - The purpose of this new committee is to advise the Board of Directors on the application of computing technologies used by the office staff to support the goals of the Society. This includes reviewing the inventory of computer hardware and regulating its maintenance, reviewing license agreements for software, and evaluating and recom-

mending software upgrades when appropriate.

**Vintage Violets** - This committee is charged with the preservation and restoration of older African violet varieties. Attempts are made to keep these varieties available to members by publicizing wishes and availability in the *African Violet Magazine*.

**Ways & Means Committee** - This committee is responsible for researching and securing African violet related items for sale at convention and through the AVSA office. Profits realized are deposited in the general treasury for use in meeting the Society's operating costs.



Location:

<http://www.avsa.org/AVMIndex.asp>

## New Research Tool on the AVSA Website

Jim Owens, AVSA Web Master

Are you looking for an article in the *African Violet Magazine* (AVM)? Tired of manually searching through current and back issues to find an article of interest? You now have a faster way to locate these articles.

Simply go to <http://www.avsa.org/AVMIndex.asp>, or go to the web site Magazine Page and click on AVM Article Search to locate the issue. Here, you are given the option of finding articles of interest by category and/or subcategory, by author, or all articles published in a specific year. Once you have chosen a search criteria, a scrollable display showing the Author, Title, Year of Publication, Month of Publication, and Page Number on which the article resides will be displayed. (Much faster than manually searching, huh?) Once you have pinpointed the article you are interested in, simply pick up that issue, turn to the page listed, and you are set to read about your topic of interest. Didn't find it? Search

again from the top or bottom of the scrollable list.

So, now you have a fast and efficient way to locate that article, and save time doing it.

This function is new on the website and was implemented to assist writers and those doing research on African violets, but it will serve the AV enthusiast just as well. Currently, the years 1989 and 1993 thru 2003 have been completed and placed in the database. The AVSA Publication Committee will continue to add classified years as they are completed. We plan to go back to the beginning (1947) eventually. (Hint: you will find unclassified articles there covering 1980 thru 1988, but by the time you read this, more years will be classified.)

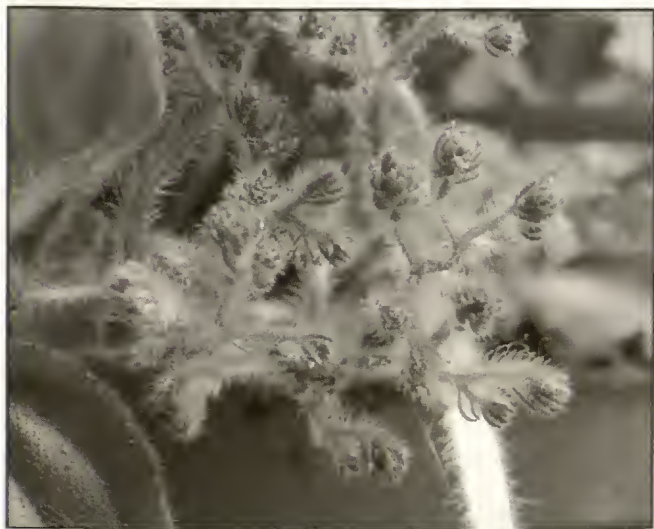
The next time you see Barbara Pershing, you might want to thank her and her committee for the hard work they have put into this project. I am sure they would appreciate the acknowledgement.

# A New Report of Control Gene Mutation in African Violet Flowers

Dr. Jeff Smith  
Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306

A little over three years ago, a picture of a very unusual African violet was shared on the e-mail discussion groups on African violets. The plant was from Europe and was named '*Saintpaulia botanika*'. The strange looking flowers of this plant were hypothesized to be caused by a mutation in the structural genes that normally give rise to the flower whorls or layers of flower parts (Smith, 2001). The mutation caused the petals to develop into partial stamens, expressed as a development of yellow anther sacs on the edges of the three lower petals. Now, it appears that a second mutation has been found in African violet flower structural genes.

The mutation was found in a plant grown from a leaf cutting of 'Isbjörn' (SW#0202/86, I. Lindskog), a standard trailing African violet with single pansy white/pink flowers. The leaf produced three plantlets. Two were normal and identical to the parent, but one produced very unusual flowers. Instead of producing sepals, petals, stamens, and a carpel (pistil) as is usually found in African violets, this plant produced flowers where all of the flower parts were expressed as sepals. The ball of sepals made the flowers look like buds, but the flowers never opened to show the normal flower parts.



Similar flower structure mutations are known in other plants. Three genes are thought to be involved, A, B, and C. Gene A is responsible for the sepals. Genes A and B interact to produce the petals. Genes B and C interact to produce the stamens. Gene C controls the development of the carpel. In

order to produce only sepals in all of the flower parts, gene A is active, but genes B and C have lost their function. Thus, a double mutation with the loss of two genes is required to produce flowers made of sepals only. This is different from the '*Saintpaulia botanika*' mutation which appears to be an over-expression of the C gene in the stamens.



The "sepal only" mutation of this sport of 'Isbjörn' should be reproduced by leaf cuttings. '*Saintpaulia botanika*' reproduces true to type from leaf cuttings, and there is no reason to suspect that the sport of 'Isbjörn' will not do the same. However, since the flowers of 'Isbjörn' have no sexual parts, the plant is sterile and the mutation can not be passed on sexually to seeds and seedlings. Thus, this mutation is a dead-end for plant breeding purposes.

If any reader has seen some other unusual sports or mutations in African violets, please let me know. It is from similar mutations that many of the important flower and leaf characteristics were developed from the original plants from Africa. While the mutation to an all-sepal flower in 'Isbjörn' is a scientific curiosity and is not useful to hybridizers, other new mutations may be just waiting to be discovered.

#### Literature Cited

Smith, J. (2001). '*Saintpaulia botanika*' – a very unusual African Violet. *African Violet Magazine* 54(6):41.

Thanks to EvaBritta Thorssell of Sweden for permission to use the picture and information on this plant, and to Isabell Olevall for her sharp eye on spotting the unusual.

# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
Email: 1bpfoster@sbcglobal.net

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed a great holiday season, and now is the time to strive to make this an even better year than last. It is time to start making your plans to attend the 2005 AVSA Convention. Everything you need to complete your plans can be found in this issue. The design schedule is quite interesting, so all the designers should be able to find a class or classes that will allow them to render their interpretation of "Violets Reign in the Queen City".

Please note that the forms for judging, clerking, and attending the judges' school has a space for an e-mail address. Be sure to furnish that information if you have e-mail. Correspondence by e-mail saves money for AVSA.

Pat Kennedy had an excellent article, "Planting in an Unusual Container" in the November/December AVM. However, the last sentence might indicate that other gesneriads might be exhibited in unusual containers. This would be great to decorate your home or perhaps to enter in Gesneriad Society shows, however, classes in AVSA shows for unusual containers only allow the use of African violets. Also, African violets planted into an unusual container must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months. Unusual Containers are in the horticulture classes, not in design. Therefore, the plant cannot be purchased the night before.

Let's discuss sports! There have been several questions

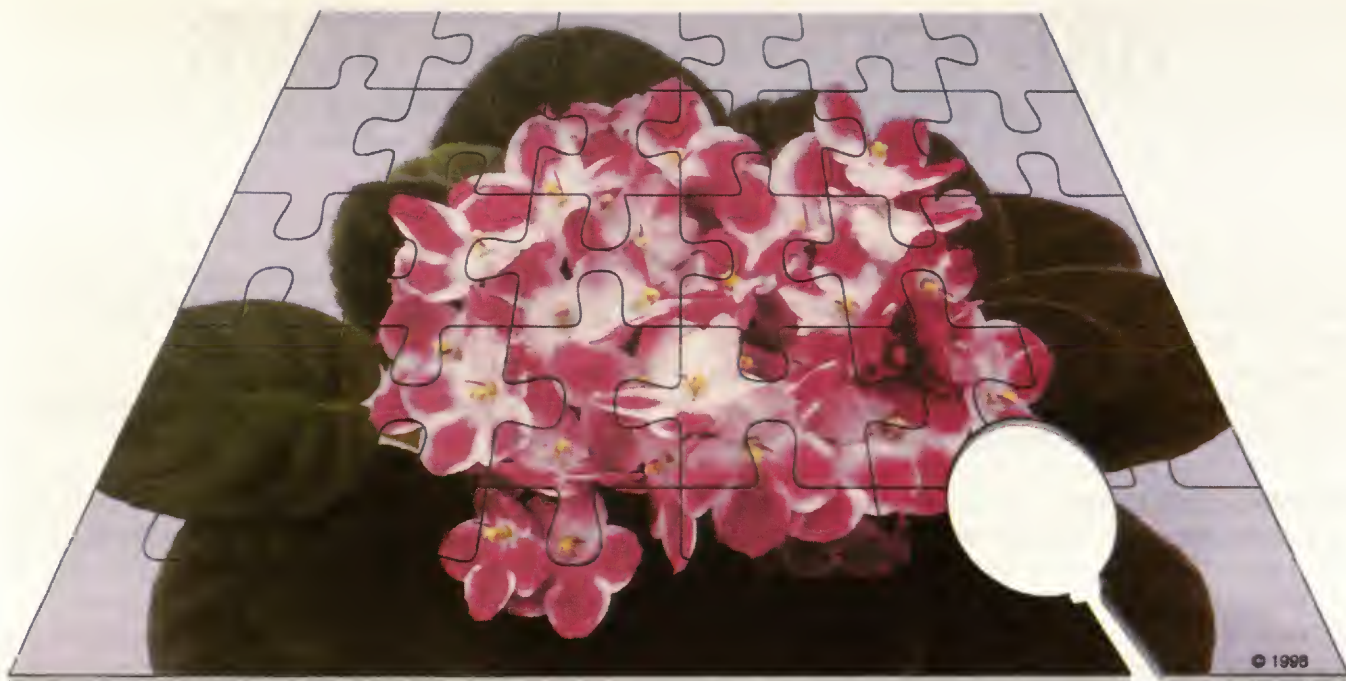
about this. Our Handbook states that sports are to be shown only as a new cultivar. For instance, if a plant of 'Mary Craig' turned up with a white blossom with a blue edge, this should be entered as a new cultivar with the name being shown as 'Sport of Mary Craig'. However, if a plant of 'Favorite Child' turns up with solid blue blossoms, if shown, should be placed in the class for multi-colors. If all the blossoms are blooming solid, the judges should deduct 10 points under "color of blossom". Most plants with multi-color blossoms will eventually produce some plantlets that revert to solid color blossoms. **All sports should be judged by the scale of points for judging new cultivars.** We get some beautiful new cultivars from sports and mutants, but unidentifiable plants, plants that have lost their names, or plants that have simply reverted to a solid color should not be entered as a sport.

We humbly apologize to **Celia Schafer**. Celia lives in Iowa, and she became a **MASTER JUDGE** in October, 2004. Her name was omitted from the list of new master judges in the previous column. To make matters worse, we promised "top billing" in the November/ December AVM and again, an omission occurred. Celia, we applaud you for your hard work and welcome you to the rank of Master Judge which is no less genuine because of the omissions.

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you at the AVSA Convention.

My family and I deeply appreciate your cards, letters, and phone calls during our bereavement over the loss of our dear wife and mother.  
Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Bill Foster and Family



## What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

### Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

### From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

### A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

### The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# ARE YOU STARVING YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS?

by Nancy Robitaille

African violets can survive very tough situations. Rooms that are too cold or too hot, insufficient light, and even very little food. But for plants that are healthy and vigorous, the following things are necessary – and in the correct forms.

If you are using only one type of fertilizer for extremely long periods, you may be starving your plants.

## PRIMARY NUTRIENTS:

All fertilizers carry three numbers on their packaging. These are the PRIMARY NUTRIENTS, those which will carry the plant to its ultimate. These primary nutrients are Nitrogen for green foliage, Phosphorus for healthy roots and bud count, and Potassium for the general health of the plants.

## SECONDARY NUTRIENTS:

Each fertilizer container will have some of the SECONDARY NUTRIENTS which are very important to the development of your plant, as well. Different fertilizers hold varying amounts of secondary nutrients and trace elements. Secondary Nutrients are Calcium, Magnesium, and Sulfur.

**CALCIUM:** (Ca) – Calcium cements the plant's cells to one another. Roots must have a good supply of calcium. Calcium neutralizes organic acids in plants and protects plants by acting as a buffer against stress caused by soil toxicity or extremes of acidity or alkalinity. Calcium also makes nutrients available to the plant for higher energy. Calcium influences intake of other plant food.

### Calcium materials are:

1. Limestone
2. Caustic lime
3. Oyster shells, ground finely.

### Deficiency symptoms are:

1. Leaf tips curl backward
2. Buds are small, shrivel and die
3. Tips of leaves brown and curl
4. Roots turn dark and die.

**MAGNESIUM:** (Mo) – Magnesium can also be obtained by using Epsom salts. Magnesium is the center core of the chlorophyll molecule in plant tissue. When deficient in magnesium, a shortage of chlorophyll results and plants becoming stunted and are poor in health.

**SULFUR:** (S) – Sulfur releases larger amounts of energy to the plant. It also ensures maximum seed development.

Sulfur gives increased root growth. It helps maintain dark green color and encourages vigorous plant growth.

Sulfur corrects the alkalinity of soil. Sulfur is washed down

from the atmosphere, and large amounts of this element are furnished by humus and other organic matter in soil.

## TRACE NUTRIENTS:

Other elements of fertilizers are TRACE NUTRIENTS which include:

**IRON:** (Fe) – Even though iron is often found in large quantities in most soil mixtures, the form that it takes does not allow plant roots to use it. This plant food works closely in association with nitrogen and sulfur and helps it to form chlorophyll molecules.

Iron is available as Ferric Sulphate and Iron chelate.

Iron is used in the correction of iron chlorosis or yellowing of leaves. Acid-loving plants like iron which aids in chlorophyll formation.

Lack of chlorophyll prevents the manufacture of starch needed for energy and growth. Sources of iron: Iron sulfate which is usually present in all soil, but locked up too high a pH caused by over-liming.

Deficiency in Iron shows up in young plant growth first. The blade of the leaf turns yellow while the large veins remain green.

**BORON:** (B) – African violets need only a very small quantity of boron. An ideal amount of boron would be 6-8 parts per million. Boron helps roots in the uptake of water. Boron also assists the plant's defense mechanism and prevents a large amount of absorbed water from evaporating and escaping from the plant back into the atmosphere.

Borax was one of the first chemicals to be used as a fertilizer and is used in very small amounts. If one or two parts per million parts of soil is lacking, there may be deficiency symptoms. Borax in too heavy concentration may be toxic.

Boron affects 15 functions of plant growth. The source of boron is borate which is released by the addition of organic matter when it is locked up by improper pH.

### Deficiency shows up in form of:

1. Leaf stems being brittle
2. Base of leaf is yellow
3. Centers are small and die
4. Dark spots on tips of young leaves.

**MANGANESE:** (Mn) – Very small amounts of Manganese will allow it to perform its three functions in a plant. Manganese aids in the formation of the chlorophyll molecule. It makes other plant foods more accessible to the plant and it causes germination to occur more quickly when propagating African violets from seed.

Manganese increases availability of calcium, magnesium and phosphorous. It is vital in chlorophyll formation. If missing, sugar and starch formation is severely checked. Too much lime is often the cause of shortage of manganese as this element becomes insoluble in alkaline soils.

Deficiency shows the color of foliage altered in some way. You can suspect lack of manganese when the veins of the leaf remain dark green, but spaces between veins turn yellow or brown. The deficiency of manganese is different from that of iron or magnesium in that the yellowing takes place in the center of the leaf.

**Copper:** (Cu) Copper's role in plants is played in a way that chlorophyll molecules react when light strikes them. Copper is also an energizer since it activates enzymes for starting several important plant processes which produce healthy plants.

Copper is both a poison and a nutrient. It was one of the earlier weed killers in the form of copper sulfate and was not proved to be a nutrient until 1927. Deficiency shows up in retarded growth. Leaves and stems are flabby. Leaves have a bleached appearance.

**ZINC:** (Zn) Zinc provides proper growth and function of plants. The lack of this plant food causes yellowing or chlorosis of leaves. Zinc is essential for plant growth and it controls the synthesis of indoleacetic acid which regulates plant growth.

Zinc is also active in many enzymatic reactions and is necessary for chlorophyll synthesis and carbohydrate formation. Deficiencies first appear on younger leaves. Plants contain and need as little as one part per million parts of soil. This is a growth regulator and important in the production of protein. A source of zinc is zinc sulfate. A deficiency is detected by leaves twisting and growing crooked. Color is blotchy. Deficiency is least where organic matter is in abundance. If zinc is lacking the plant will rob older foliage. When enough has been taken, a near normal plant will set on stunted growth.

**MOLYBDENUM:** (Mo) Like Zinc, molybdenum is an activating compound which causes certain plant-growing processes to occur. Molybdenum is from a Greek word "molyb-

dos" meaning lead. Molybdenum is a trace element for virtually all life forms. It functions as a co-factor for a number of enzymes that catalyze important chemical transformations in the global carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur cycles. Thus, molybdenum-dependant enzymes are not only required for the health of plants and people, but for the health of its ecosystems as well. The biological form of molybdenum is present in almost all molybdenum-containing enzymes and an organic molecule known as the molybdenum co-factor.

Molybdenum is a metallic substance and helps bacteria get nitrogen from the air. As a source it is released by adding lime. It is needed in barely detectable amounts, one part of one million parts of soil, but the lack of this tiny particle is critical. The amount of molybdenum in soil is always small and, the deficiency appears when pH is below 5.2 Deficiency would be detected by the same symptoms as lack of nitrogen.

**WATER:** Water is two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. Water is a basic food and essential to life of all living things.

**CARBON:** Carbon in soil contains about six or seven times as much carbon dioxide if the soil contains any amount of organic matter. It is slightly poorer in oxygen due to the constant absorption of oxygen by roots leaving carbon dioxide behind.

**CHLORINE:** (Cl) Its presence is necessary for the growth of plants. Chlorine is required for certain photo-chemical reactions in photosynthesis. Chlorine uptake affects the degree of hydration of plant cells and balances the charge of positive ions. Deficiency causes wilt.

These trace elements, along with the three major elements, are the 15 components of fertilizers. When your plant is lacking in any particular element, you now know how to diagnose the problem and what to do about it.

By knowing your fertilizers and what they contain as well as what is in your soil, you are equipped to intelligently feed your plants.

When buying fertilizers, buy nutrients, not only the fertilizer. Study the label and know what is included. Elements other than the top three: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, are very important.



# Showcase

## *Rosie Ruffles*

*Exhibited by:* **Evye Strong**

*Hybridized by:* **D. Harrington**

*Standard*



*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Moonlight Magic*

*Exhibited by:* **Kathy Bell**

*Hybridized by:* **S. Sorano**

*Standard*



*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## ***Pink Mischief***

*New Introduction 2004*

*Exhibited by: **Paul Sorano***

*Hybridized by: **Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses***

*Standard*

# Some Things Never Change: A History Lesson

by Norah Otto

People and violets just seem to naturally go together, and when violet lovers are faced with absolutely no place to grow their African violets, do they give up? No way – they just get creative. Over the years, the AVM has reported on some highly creative and very unusual places where African violet lovers grow their plants. So what strange and unusual spaces have growers been utilizing, you ask (with dreams of potential new spaces floating in front of you)? Well, let's check out some of the more unique growing spaces about which someone, somewhere, can say, "been there, done that."

"Attendees of the 1977 St. Louis Convention were stunned and amazed to read later that Tom E. Toms, winner of eight top awards, including the Gold Rosette for the AVSA Best Collection, grew these prize-winning plants in his attic"! Mr. Toms, of Bossier City, Louisiana, turned a "bare, unfinished attic" into a plant room where he was growing around 1000 African violets<sup>2</sup>. He managed to get a sink, a storage area (don't many of us wish we had one), and a tabletop work area (ditto!) into his attic, along with plant stands for those 1000 plants. That is, after installing stairs, paneling the walls, and carpeting the floor! He also managed to provide light, proper humidity and temperature for said plants – no mean trick in an attic in the South. And why the attic? Well, like others we know, he started with one stand in the den, then added the utility room and finally took over a bedroom. Something had to be done, and he did it – in his attic!

What Tom E. Toms did for attics in the '70s, Charles Garrod, of Spotswood, New Jersey, did for crawl spaces in the '60s! Yes, that's crawl space, not basement. Believe it! After filling his rec room to overflowing with shelves and lights, Mr. Garrod noted, "it soon became obvious that we would have to either expand or stop taking trips to Tinari's, Lyon's, Fischer's, and Champion's.... and that is why we put our crawl space to work."<sup>3</sup> Sounds familiar, doesn't it? But who would have thought of their crawl space? Garrod notes that the builder had built the crawl space, which was accessible from the rec room, complete with a cement floor, heat and even aluminum insulated foil walls.<sup>3</sup> You might be interested to know that those foil walls reflected the light from the fluorescent fixtures he installed very nicely. Gerrod installed 30 double fluorescent four-foot fixtures in the 3 1/2 foot high space running beneath his living room, dining room and kitchen. He then grew "many hundreds" of African violets successfully there, in addition to the plants filling the rec room. By the way, Gerrod admits he started with just one little plant in his office...<sup>3</sup> Sound familiar?

One grower, faced with such a problem – six years earlier,

she had received one innocent little plant of 'Blue Boy' – found a home for her hundreds of varieties in a bus! She wrote in 1957 that, after her violets took over the dining room, living room, back and front porches, and the bay window, and finally spread into the bedroom, her husband, "in sheer desperation...bought an old bus...which he converted into a greenhouse."<sup>4</sup> Heated with a floor furnace, Mrs. Neeman reported growing over 600 African violets happily in the bus in the backyard of her Hebron, Nebraska, home. Regrettably, a few years later, Mrs. Neeman wrote that a fire, caused by her heater, burned the bus. She lost her plants, but said she was starting over. Growers never give up either...

Ok, are you ready for the clincher? In 1966, Jack MacKenzie, Safety Director for the Canadian Rock Salt Company's Ojibway Mine (as in the Windsor Salt Mine), was growing "a profusion of African violets...a fifth of a mile below the earth's surface in the salt mine."<sup>4</sup> The AVM author, James A. Murdoch, picked up the story from a piece by Mel Howey in *The Montreal Star*.

In "*African Violets Grow at Bottom of Salt Mine*," Murdoch reported that African violets were flourishing 1000' below the Earth's surface. That must raise a few eyebrows, but please observe the footnote – I am not making this up!

Seriously, the African violets and other plants growing under lights in the mine were part of a 1966 University of Western Ontario experiment to prove that electric light was sufficient for plant life (I think we can all testify that they were right!). The Canadian Rock Salt Company permitted the scientists to grow flowers, vegetables, and other plants in their mine under lights. Needless to say, the plants did just fine!

And just in case you wondered what it would have been like to take the mine tour that year:

"When visitors enter the Windsor salt mine, ...they are instructed from 'a list of dos and don'ts' that includes the warning, 'And mind, now, don't pick the flowers.' ...Everybody chuckles as they step into an elevator, drop 1,000 feet into the earth's depth, and step out into a cavernous salt mine ...And there, on their right, are the flowers: a profusion of African violets, bright coleus, begonias, geraniums and others..."<sup>5</sup>

Well now you have it. Truth really is stranger than fiction if African violets have flourished under the eaves and under the floorboards, as well as in a school bus and down a mine.

So remember, if you happen to feel you can't possibly find one more iota of space for those new plants: get creative. Think outside the box, or, in this case, outside the family

room! As we've just seen, space can be found in some of the strangest places. Use them, because we have a tradition to carry on! We want growers in 2020 to be able to marvel at the ingenuity of us turn-of-the-millennium growers just as I am astounded at the strange places space-starved growers have found for their violets!

As Mrs. Jean Toms said about her husband's plants in 1977, growing African violets is "a hobby that gets away from you." Some things DON'T change!

- <sup>1</sup> Foote, Grace. "Two Missouri Women Tie for Top Honors at AVSA Convention/Show." *African Violet Magazine*, Vol. 30, #3 (1977): 78.
- <sup>2</sup> Fischer, Marge. "His Attic is Full of African Violets." *African Violet Magazine*, Vol. 31, #2 (1978): 14.
- <sup>3</sup> Garrod, Charles. "Violets in a Crawl Space." *African Violet Magazine*, Vol. 16, #3 (1963): 82-83.
- <sup>4</sup> Neeman, Mrs. George. "A Bus for the Violets." *African Violet Magazine*, Vol. 11, #1 (1957): 39.
- <sup>5</sup> Murdoch, James A.. "African Violets Grow at Bottom of Salt Mine." *African Violet Magazine*, Vol. 20, #1 (1966): 32.



# Fun Things to do in Cincinnati.....

by Penny Wichman

If you are thinking about bringing a husband or wife or a friend that is not an African violet enthusiast, we have exciting things for them to do while you are busy with your plants and plant related festivities. First of all, check out our great list of tours in the purple pages. We have everything from museums to auto racing to an afternoon sightseeing cruise on the beautiful Ohio River.

After you have chosen a couple of tours for them to take, and they still say, "What else am I going to do," here's what you can tell them.

If golf is their game, we have 6 golf courses within 12 miles of the Drawbridge. From an 18 hole par 3 course to a Jack Nicklaus designed tournament course and everything in between, there is something for everyone's tastes and abilities. The World of Sports' par 3 course has the perfect mix of rolling hills and lakes to keep it interesting, but it's easy to walk the entire course if you do not want to rent a cart. It's reasonable too if you are on a budget. World of Sports is only \$17.50 for nine holes and an extra \$10.50 if you want to rent a cart. Lassing Pointe is a little pricier at \$49.00 for 18 holes and a cart. Tee times are easy to get, especially during the week. On weekends, it is recommended to call ahead.

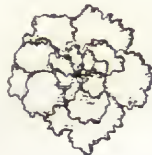
Those who would like a little more excitement can take a short ride over to Indiana to visit one of our Riverboat Casinos. The Argosy in Lawrenceburg has Las Vegas style

gaming with slots as well as live games. If they are not having any luck there, a short drive further along the scenic Ohio River will get them to the Grand Victoria, which has exactly the same gaming as the Argosy only on a slightly smaller and more elegant scale. If slots and blackjack are not their style, we have 2 horse tracks close by. Turfway Park, just 5 miles down the road, will have simulcast betting, whereas River Downs located about 15 miles away will have live racing.

If they are looking for something to do in the evening, maybe they could take in a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. Tickets are always available at the gate. Our new stadium boasts a restaurant, a gaming area where you can try your hand at pitching and hitting, and even broadcasting, and the brand new Red's hall of fame museum, which will have something of interest for every baseball fan. Maybe we'll even be hosting their favorite team.

And of course, there is always shopping. We have malls and shopping centers galore. In nearby Hebron, we have the GAP/Banana republic outlet store and Gallerie Au Chocolate outlet store where they can find something for everyone and especially for you.

So bring them along. We'll keep them busy. We will have maps and directions and a lot more ideas at our information table in the lobby.



# Showcase

## *Buckeye Extravaganza*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman*

*Hybridized by: Pat Hancock*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Streptocarpus 'Sandra'*

*Exhibited by: Esther Hopkins*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



**AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE**  
**VIOLETS REIGN IN THE QUEEN CITY**  
**CINCINNATI, OHIO**  
**APRIL 17-24, 2005**



**HORTICULTURE DIVISION-AMATEUR**

**SECTION I - COLLECTIONS  
CLASS**

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species regardless of type.
2. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).
3. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.
4. Robinson Collection of three registered Rob's Violets plants, all of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures or three semiminature trailers) or three standards.
5. Buckeye collection of three registered standard Hancock (Buckeye series) plants.

**SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM,  
GREEN FOLIAGE**

6. Dark blue and purple
7. Light to medium blue
8. Light to medium pink
9. Dark pink, rose, and coral
10. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
11. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
12. Multicolor and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
13. Multicolor and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
14. Fantasy
15. All edged

**SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM,  
VARIEGATED FOLIAGE**

16. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
17. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
18. White, cream, and blush
19. Multicolor and chimera
20. Fantasy and all edged

**SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM**

21. Purple and all shades of blue
22. Pink, coral, red, wine, and fuchsia
23. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
24. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged
25. Fantasy
26. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
27. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
28. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
29. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
30. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS,  
ANY TYPE BLOSSOM**

31. Purple and all shades of blue
32. Pink and coral
33. Red, wine, and fuchsia
34. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
35. All edged
36. Multicolor and chimera
37. Fantasy
38. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage.
39. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
40. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
41. Multicolor and chimera, variegated foliage
42. All edged, variegated foliage
43. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE  
VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE**

44. Standard trailers
45. Miniature trailers
46. Semiminature trailers
47. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
48. Vintage Violets (must be at least 25 years old)

**SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS**

49. Seedlings
50. Sports or mutants

**SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN  
UNUSUAL CONTAINER**

51. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in a container
52. One African violet trailer in container

**SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN  
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

53. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted; no single plant more than 5" in diameter)
54. Tuberous-rooted (Sinningia, Nautilocalyx, Chrysothemis, etc.)
55. Scaly-rhizomed in bloom
56. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Streptocarpus/Streptocarpella)
57. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Long stemmed such as Aeschynanthus, Columnea, Nematanthus, etc.)
58. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (All other blooming fibrous-rooted Chirita, Episcia, Petrocosmea, Alsobia, etc.)
59. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (All Episcia)
60. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (Other than Episcia)

## DESIGN DIVISION

### SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants with other plant material. African violet plants should be removed from their pots with the root ball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, colored plant materials, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, and the American or other national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted. Tables in all classes are covered in white. The niches are white.

Class 61 - **Great American Ballpark** - "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" has been a familiar tune for many years in Cincinnati. Cincinnati has the oldest professional team in baseball. A plant arrangement honoring the REDS and the New Cinergy Great American Ballpark. To be staged in a niche 28"H X 24"W X 15"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 62 - **High Atop Mt. Adams** - Winding streets through an old world atmosphere of historic and new architecture offer spectacular river views as well as unique shopping and dining. Interpret this hip and historic community in your design. To be staged in a niche 22"H X 18"W X 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 63 - **Findlay Market** - An open air marketplace that is a Cincinnati tradition. In operation since 1852. Famous for fresh produce, ethnic foods within, and Old World atmosphere. To be staged in a niche 22"H X 18"W X 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 64 - **Main Strasse Visited** - This historic 19th century German village located in Covington, Kentucky entertains with shopping, food, pubs, and live entertainment. Conceptualize a sense of its 19th century origins in your plant design. To be staged in a niche 22"H X 18"W X 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 65 - **Arnoff Center For The Performing Arts** - The center's three theaters present more than 10,000 art exhibits and performances throughout the year including Broadway shows and Children's theater. It is the main performance hall for the Cincinnati Ballet. Feature your favorite art form in a plant arrangement. To be staged in a niche 28"H X 24"W X 15"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 66 - **A German Taste** - Mecklenburg Gardens Restaurant is on the National Register of Historic Places. Features are an outdoor bier garden, an indoor pub, and intimate dining rooms. Capture the German spirit in your design. To be staged in a niche 28"H X 24"W X 15"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 67 - **Riverboats** - These paddle wheelers are a unique way to enjoy the vibrant Cincinnati skyline, scenic bluffs, and woody areas along the beautiful Ohio River while lunching or dining on a cruise. To be staged in a niche 22"H X 18"W X 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

### SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each design will use fresh-cut African violet blossoms with other plant material. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, painted materials, and man-made materials are permitted. No artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, nor the American or other national flags are permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by individual classes. Tables in all classes are covered in white. When niches are used, they are white.

Class 68 - **Riverfest** - August 31st is a day-long farewell to summer capped by a 55 minute fireworks display synchronized to music, that has become one of the 10 biggest fireworks events in

the nation. Your idea of a bang-up, sparkling arrangement. To be staged in a niche 22"H X 18"W X 12"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 69 - **Racing at Turfway** - Thrill to live horse racing at Turfway Park! Located at Florence, Kentucky, it is just 10 minutes south of Cincinnati and adjacent to the bluegrass region of race-horse fame. Include a representation of horse racing in your design. To be staged in a niche 28"H X 24"W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 70 - **Go Bengals!** - The orange and brown Bengal uniforms bring to mind fall and football. You can root for the Bengals with an arrangement suggesting fall. To be shown in a 22"H X 18"W X 12"D niche. Limit 8 entries.

Class 71 - **Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal** - Home to 3 museums and the Omnimax Theater, the building once was a great railroad terminal with bustling travelers. Stage a frozen moment in time of this historic terminal turned museum in your flower design to be presented in a 22"H X 18"W X 12"D niche. Limit 8 entries.

Class 72 - **Newport Aquarium** - Thousands of aquatic displays from every continent and ocean. The Bizarre and the Beautiful. This underwater design is to be staged for viewing from the front only and at eye level. Containers must not exceed 12" in width. No backdrops or underlay permitted. Limit 10 entries.

### SMALL INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

All small flower arrangements will be viewed at eye level.

Class 73 - **Adventure in Kings Island** - The amusement park boasts a 15 acre water park, a haunted castle, 12 roller coasters. Scooby-Doo and gang, and 365 acres of Family Fun surrounding a model Eiffel Tower. Express a mood or activity that you find here in a niche 10"H X 10"W X 5"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 74 - **Shakespeare as You Like It** - Nine plays are presented annually at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival. Present an aspect of your favorite Shakespeare play and include the title on your 3x5 card. To be staged in a niche 10"H X 8"W X 5"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 75 - **Krohn Conservatory** - Contains thousands of flowers and plants in permanent and seasonal displays. The annual Butterfly Show is worth a special trip. A flower arrangement to be displayed in a niche 8"H X 6"W X 4"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 76 - **Cinergy Children's Museum** - The Children's Museum is a part of the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal. There are several hands-on exhibit areas for infants to 10 year old children. This is a small arrangement that a child would enjoy. Not to exceed 8" in any direction. To be staged on an individual base. An underlay is permitted but a backdrop is not. Limit 8 entries.

### SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

These designs are miniature gardens or landscapes with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plant specimens. All plants must be planted in the container. See Class for container size. No cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, American or other national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. No limit on number of entries in each class, but only one entry by each exhibitor in each class.

Class 77 - **Fort Ancient State Memorial** - A prehistoric earth-work built on a plateau by the Hopewell Indians. Fort Ancient encompasses about 100 acres containing remains of village sites and circular mounds that were used as a calendar. A dish garden to include one or more circles in the design, not to exceed 16 inches.

Class 78 - **Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden** - Opened in 1875. There are over 580 animal species including Sumatran

rhinoceros, white Bengal tigers, elephants, and giraffes in natural settings that are both hilly and rocky. A natural garden not to exceed 12 inches.

Class 79 - **Little Miami Bike Trail** - With a little personal time there is biking on this trail that winds through a natural setting that includes trees, hills, and a river. Design a terrarium not to exceed 20 inches in any direction.

Class 80 - **The Heart of the City** - Since 1871 Fountain Square and its 43 foot Tyler Davidson Fountain have been the spectacular setting for Cincinnati gatherings. The central figure of this Bavarian fountain is the Genius of Water which signifies Mother Nature and the origin of water as rain. Her open arms welcome all while her flowing waters spread a mist refreshing visitors on warm days. Create a sense of this fountain, the heart and soul of the city, in your dish garden that is not to exceed 12 inches in any direction.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

### SECTION XIII-EDUCATION EXHIBIT

81. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

## COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### SECTION XIV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

#### A. COLLECTIONS

82. AVSA Collections-Standard Plants
83. AVSA Collections-Miniatures and Semiminiatures
84. Holtkamp Collections

#### B. NEW CULTIVARS (from seed or mutation)

85. Standard African Violets
86. Miniature African Violets
87. Semiminiature African Violets
88. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

#### C. SPECIMEN AFRICAN VIOLETS

89. Standards, plain green foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
90. Standards, plain green foliage, all other blossoms
91. Standards, variegated foliage
92. Miniatures, plain foliage
93. Miniatures, variegated foliage
94. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
95. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, all other blossoms
96. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage
97. Trailers, (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
98. Saintpaulia species

#### D. GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

99. Fibrous-rooted gesneriads in bloom
100. All other gesneriads in bloom
101. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

### SECTION XV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

102. Display Tables
103. Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only
104. Commercial Showcase - Horticulture plus - includes a creative aspect

## HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR-RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag. Members **ON TOUR ON WEDNESDAY ONLY, MUST** turn in a list of their entries at the Convention registration desk on **TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY** and **MUST** receive a late pass to enter on **WEDNESDAY**, April 20, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.
3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.
4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.
5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative. **DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL.** Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.
6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 6 through 48.
7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 48, 49, 51, and 52 as those in classes 6 through 48.
8. All plants in classes 1 through 52 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grotei, S. Sigi Falls, and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 47.
9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation, or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of \_\_\_\_\_." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.
10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.
11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.
12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in any of the collection classes, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.
14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.
15. All African violets entered in the Robinson Collections, Class 4, and Buckeye Collections, Class 5, must be AVSA registered.
16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 2, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, Robinson Collection, Class 4, Buckeye Collection, Class 5.
17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
18. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, April 23. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

## 2005 DESIGN DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **EXHIBITORS** Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. **ENTRY TIME** On Wednesday, April 20, 2005, entries will be accepted from 9:00AM to 6:00 PM. Entrants **on tours Wednesday only** may enter from 6:00 to 9:00PM. Design entry books will be closed at 9:00PM. Those desiring to enter designs after 6:00PM must notify the Design Entries Reservation Chairman in writing by the morning of Wednesday, April 20, 2005 (messages may be left at the convention registration desk).
3. **ENTRIES** Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of eight entries in classes (interpretive flower and plant arrangements) and one in each of the container garden classes.
4. **DESIGN WORK** Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs **until 10:00PM** on Wednesday, April 20. On Thursday, April 21, designers may place blossoms and touch up designs **from 7:00 to 8:00AM**. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:00AM on Thursday, April 21.
5. **INDEX CARD** All exhibits must have a 3"x 5" index card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known). A written subtitle may also be included on the card.
6. **DESIGN RESERVATIONS** Advance written reservations are required for **all** design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a completed reservation (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, **postmarked no earlier than February 6, 2005, nor later than April 6, 2005**, to: Janice Beaty; 900 Kenwyn Ct., Columbus, Ohio, 43220.

## Commercial Horticulture Division Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter this Division. A commercial exhibitor may enter **EITHER** a display table **OR** a commercial showcase, but not both. Exhibitors in a commercial showcase class may also enter specimen horticulture,

Section XIV. All commercial exhibitors are eligible to enter the Design Division.

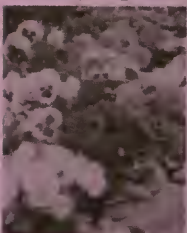
2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.
3. All plants must be correctly named and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to convention. All African violets must be in bloom and must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species.
4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 82 and 83 and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 84, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.
5. Any African violet plant in Specimen Plant, Display Table, or Commercial Showcase sections may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards. Entries may be seedlings, sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or rights and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".
6. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged as one unit.
7. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase Section will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Table covers will be neutral. Exhibits in this section shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminature, standard, or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Showcases must be predominantly (more than 50%) African violets or designs using African violets. Class 103, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only shall be a collection of 6-10 plants with **NO** embellishment. Class 104, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture plus must include a creative aspect, and may include designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets. Each design will count as the equivalent of one entry. No merchandise will be allowed in this section.
8. In Commercial Showcases each entry in the exhibit will be judged. Class 103 shall use standard plant name and entry tags supplied by Entries. In Class 104, the exhibitor has the option to use the standard plant name tag provided by Entries, or to provide his own tag or diagram. The entry book number of each plant or arrangement must appear on the tag or diagram. For class 104, no ribbon awards will be given; instead, each showcase with all blue ribbon exhibits will receive a rosette. A point score sheet shall be given each exhibitor showing how awards were determined.
9. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section. Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

10. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.
11. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables or commercial showcases.
12. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.
13. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.
14. Entries in the Display Table Section and the Commercial Showcase Section will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.
15. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors receiving first, second, and third highest number of points in each Display Table and Commercial Showcase class. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.
16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
17. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Kathy Bell, 9611 E. Blanding Lane, Tucson, AZ 85747, e-mail [kkbell@Ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kkbell@Ag.arizona.edu). Reservations must be made no later than March 1, 2005.



## African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2005 Tours – Cincinnati, Ohio

### **Tour #1      Delhi Gardens, Gold Star Chili, Jungle Jim's** **Monday, April 18, 2005      8:30 am – 4:30 pm**



Today we will travel north of downtown Cincinnati to Springdale, OH. Our first stop will be **Delhi Flower and Garden Center**. [www.delhigardencenters.com](http://www.delhigardencenters.com). Family owned since 1960, this is Cincinnati's premier garden center. They pride themselves in offering the best products and plants in the area. There is a large gift shop containing a wide selection of indoor and outdoor plants and products as well as pottery, silk botanicals, seeds, and tropical forest gardens. A tour will be provided with a knowledgeable guide to answer our questions and direct us through the store.

We will stop for lunch on your own at Cincinnati's famous **Gold Star Chili**.

Afterwards, hold on to your hats folks, as we head to **Jungle Jim's International Market**. Here we will be met by our Safari guide and hear about how this immense, festive market started. It is the only international supermarket of its kind with four acres of food all under one roof. Animated cartoons can be found throughout the building. There is also a large bakery and an extra large cheese selection as well as just about anything you would like to try. We will be given a tour with about nine samples to taste. There will be bakery items, cheese, perhaps chili, and whatever else is planned for the day. You will be able to shop for your favorite snack to take back to the hotel.

**Cost \$31.00**

### **Tour #2      Newport Aquarium, Newport on the Levee,** **Monday, April 18, 2005      Sightseeing Cruise** **9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

You will gain a whole new perspective on sea life as you travel around the world to the ocean's depths, the river's edge, and the fringe of the Antarctic frontier. You will see the bizarre, the beautiful, the dangerous, and the deadly, including the clear acrylic tunnel that takes you through the 380,000 gallon shark habitat. Also, visit Gator Bayou, Kingdom of Penguins, and the baby Ray nursery. Wear comfortable walking shoes. It is totally handicapped and wheelchair accessible, and there are places to sit and rest. Visit on the web at [www.newportaquarium.com](http://www.newportaquarium.com).



Located in the same complex is **Newport on the Levee**, featuring unique shopping, international dining, and specialty stores. Have lunch at an Irish pub or just grab a hamburger from Johnny Rockets. For a list of all of the shops and restaurants visit [www.NewportontheLevee.com](http://www.NewportontheLevee.com).

Then it's off to the **Covington Landing** for an afternoon sightseeing cruise on the scenic Ohio River. This one hour long narrated cruise on one of the B&B Riverboats' paddle wheelers will give you a glimpse of sights on both sides of the river. Cash bar and snacks are available. Visit their website for more information [www.bbriverboats.com](http://www.bbriverboats.com).

**Cost \$55.00**

### **Tour #3** **Tuesday, April 19, 2005**



### **Benken's Florist & Museum Center** **8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Today we will travel northeast of downtown Cincinnati on a short drive to Loveland. We will begin our tour in **Benken's Greenhouse** which has been family owned for 75 years. Benken's has twenty-five greenhouses in this one location. They pride themselves on a large selection of blooming plants and fresh cut flowers for floral work. We will meet the owners who will give us a background and perhaps a small presentation of some of the work they do. Afterwards we will have time to explore the grounds and the gift shop. For more information go to [www.benkenflorist.com](http://www.benkenflorist.com).

Next, we board the bus and travel past the Great American Ball Park and the Bengal's Stadium on our way to the **Cincinnati Museum Center** in the **Union Terminal** Building. This building opened as a train station in 1933 and has the country's most spectacular examples of art deco architecture. Discover Cincinnati's rich heritage in recreated scenes at the museum. Experience the thrill and awe of a movie on the five-story wrap around domed screen at the Robert D Linder Family Omni Max Theater. Lunch will be on your own. For more information go to [www.cincymuseum.org](http://www.cincymuseum.org)

**Cost \$36.00**

**Tour #4 Krohn Conservatory/Rookwood/Art Museum**  
**Tuesday, April 19th, 2005 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**



Our journey today travels through Cincinnati on a short drive to Eden Park to visit the Historic **Krohn Conservatory**, Cincinnati's "Paradise Under Glass". This building has a Tropical Forest House, Palm House, Seasonal Floral Display House, Bonsai Collection, Desert House, and Orchid Room. The floral display is beautiful so be

sure to bring your camera. Take some time in the Conservatory's Gift Shop. For more information, visit [www.cinci-parks.org](http://www.cinci-parks.org).

We leave the Conservatory and travel up a winding, narrow road past an eclectic group of homes to the **Rookwood Pottery Restaurant** for lunch on your own. This building was a pottery factory in the early 1800's featuring pottery with a jewel-like porcelain finish which is highly collectable. Pottery lines the walls of the restaurant which was once a real kiln. Enjoy a meal from their widely varied menu.

Next, we travel down the hill to the **Cincinnati Art Museum** which has three stories of art and sculpture under one roof. The museum was founded in 1831 and today holds a permanent collection of nearly one hundred thousand pieces of the world's greatest art spanning six thousand years. For more information visit [www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org).  
**Cost \$35.00**

**Tour #5 Kentucky Horse Park, Yuko on the Elkhorn**  
**Wednesday, April 20th, 2005 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Start the day with a scenic drive down I-75 to the only park in the world dedicated to mankind's relationship to the horse. At this home to over 40 different breeds of horses, you will be able to visit 2 museums, including the world famous American Saddle bred Museum, see 2 live shows, take a horse-drawn carriage ride, and see a movie on the history of horses and horse racing.



You will see firsthand how a working horse farm operates, as well as visit the award winning gift shop packed with one-of-a-kind equine items. Lunch will be on your own at the cafeteria-style restaurant located right on the grounds. Wear comfortable walking shoes. It is totally handicapped accessible. For more information and a live web cam look at the park, visit [www.kyhorsepark.com](http://www.kyhorsepark.com).

Next, it's back on the bus for a short ride to Georgetown, known as the Antique capital of Kentucky and home to Georgetown College, training camp for the Cincinnati Bengals. While there, we will visit Yuko on the Elkhorn, the official Kentucky-Japan friendship garden and one of the largest Japanese gardens in America.

**Cost \$40.00**

**Tour #6 Cincinnati Zoo, Mainstrasse Village, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption**  
**Wednesday, April 20, 2004 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Start the day with a visit to the World Famous **Cincinnati Zoo** Center for the **Research of Endangered Wildlife**, where the **African violet** is the flagship species for endangered plant life. Following a presentation about what "CREW" is doing for the preservation of endangered plant life, you will tour the laboratories and get to meet and speak with several of the scientists working on the endangered plant propagation program. You will also see the frozen garden, the tissue culture propagation area, and the greenhouse where the endangered species are grown. Following the "CREW" tour, there will be a short tour of the **Botanical Gardens**, or if you prefer, you can visit any of the other zoo exhibits or just sit on one of the many benches and



enjoy "Swan Lake." More information is available on the website: [www.cincinnati-zoo.org](http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org).

Then it will be off to Covington's **Mainstrasse Village**, five blocks of restored 19th century historic buildings where you can enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants, or just browse in one of the shops offering vintage and handcrafted items. There is also the "Glockenspiel," the German gothic structure that plays a 43 bell carillon hourly, presenting a mini concert and enactment of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. For a list of restaurants and shops you can visit [www.staynky.com](http://www.staynky.com) or [www.mainstrasse.org](http://www.mainstrasse.org).

We'll finish the day at the **St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption**, the French gothic replica of Notre Dame in Paris. It features 80 stained glass church windows, including the world's largest. Made in Munich in 1910, these windows depict the life of Jesus as a child, the adult Jesus, as well as windows depicting the 5 miracles and 7 sacraments. There are also murals, sculptures, and an historic Matthias Schwab organ. For more information go to [www.covcathedral.com](http://www.covcathedral.com).

**Cost \$34.00**

**Tour #7 Toyota Plant & Kentucky Speedway**  
**Thursday April 21, 2005 8:00 am - 4:30 pm**

Today we will travel south on I-75 to quaint Georgetown, Kentucky, home of **Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky**. We begin with a tour of the manufacturing facility where Camrys, Soloras, and Avalons are assembled. For security reasons we are unable to carry backpacks or purses with us; however, identification will be needed as we sign in at the visitor center. We will see a short film about the cars then pick up our safety glasses and headsets as we board the tram for our ride through the factory. Our knowledgeable guide will explain the procedure of assembling each vehicle, starting from initial stamping to final inspection. It is thrilling to see the completed car being driven off the assembly line. This Toyota facility sits on approximately 1,300 acres with 7.5 million square feet under roof. TMMK is the largest Toyota Plant outside of Japan.



We travel north to the **Kentucky Speedway**, one of the newest tracks to be built. This track has a NASCAR Truck Race, an Indy Car Race, as well as a driving school. Our tour starts in the gift shop and proceeds with a visit to the infield, garages, media center, and Victory Circle. Then (the most fun of all), we get to take the bus for a lap around the race track! Lunch is on your own.

**Cost \$26.00**

**Tour #8 Grand Victoria Casino**  
**Thursday, April 21, 2005 8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

This half day trip will take you down one of the most scenic byways in Indiana, along the Ohio River, and through 2 historic towns on your way to one of the plush-est riverboat casinos in the country. You will enjoy a wide variety of Las Vegas style casino games in addition to an expansive area of slot machines. This stationary boat is completely handicapped accessible. You will receive a \$5 voucher that you may exchange for tokens or use toward the award winning buffet.

**Cost \$32.00**



**Tour #9 Dinner Cruise on the River Queen**  
**Friday, April 22, 2005 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm**



Enjoy the lovely sunset on the deck of an authentic paddle wheeler, followed by a delicious dinner and a 3 hour cruise on the lovely Ohio River. This buffet style dinner includes carved roast sirloin of beef and seasoned boneless chicken breast, parsley new potatoes, southern style green beans, mixed salad greens, choice of dressings, fresh baked dinner rolls, freshly brewed coffee and tea, with New York style cheesecake for dessert. A cash bar is also available. It is completely handicapped accessible and will make for a most enjoyable and memorable evening. For more information, visit [www.bbriverboats.com](http://www.bbriverboats.com).

**Cost \$60.00**

## MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before March 17, 2005** will receive table assignments. **All reservations received after that date will have unreserved seating at meal functions.**

Special meal requests must be made to the AVSA Office at time of registration. Requests made directly to the hotel will **not** be honored.

## Just A Reminder

**On Friday and Saturday**, there is a \$5.00 admission fee to the show and sales room for those not registered for the convention. You must have your name badge to avoid the fee.

**One Day Registration** – If you cannot join us for the entire convention, you may want to take advantage of the one-day registration which will allow you to enter the sales and show room, attend presentations and attend meal functions on the day that you are there.

**Commuter Fee** – It has become necessary to add a fee to those registrants who elect not to stay at the convention hotel. This fee does not apply to anyone staying at their principal residence. We are being forced to pay for more of our meeting space, tables, and other equipment which was at one time all complimentary. These charges increase when we don't meet the room block for the hotel. This commuter fee is the equivalent of one night's lodging.

Don't forget the  
**AVSA Auction  
at the Friday  
Luncheon!**

## "Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon

This year we will again open the Wednesday Luncheon to all members.

Meet your officers and board members in an informal setting. Avoid the crowds at the restaurants. Relax and dine with your friends. Come one, come all!!

# 59th Annual AVSA Convention & Show

## Sunday, April 17, 2005 to Sunday, April 24, 2005

### *"Violets Reign in the Queen City"*

#### SUNDAY, April 17, 2005

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AVSA Convention Pre-Con  
Registration  
Information

#### MONDAY, April 18, 2005

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
**9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration  
**Tour #1 – Delhi Gardens, Gold Star Chili, Jungle Jim's**  
Information  
**Tour #2 – Newport Aquarium, Newport on the Levee, Sightseeing Cruise**  
Registration  
Information

#### TUESDAY, April 19, 2005

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. to Completion  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration  
Executive Board Meeting  
**Tour #3 – Benken's Florist and Museum Center**  
**Tour #4 – Krohn Conservatory, Rookwood, Art Museum**  
Information  
Registration  
Information  
Convention Committee Meeting  
Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

#### WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2005

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to Completion  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.  
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.  
8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.  
10:00 p.m.

Registration  
Judging School  
New Director's Orientation  
**Tour #5 – Kentucky Horse Park, Yuko on the Elkhorn**  
**Tour #6 – Cincinnati Zoo, Mainstrasse Village, Cathedral Basilica**  
Classification and Entries  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Information  
Ways & Means Table, Minneapolis Promotional Table  
"Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon  
Classification and Entries  
AVSA Information and Sales  
Information  
Registration  
Awards Committee meeting  
President's Reception for Board of Directors  
Classification and Entries –FOR THOSE ON TOURS ONLY  
2004 Tucson Convention and New Introduction Slides  
Social Break  
**"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum**  
Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

#### THURSDAY, April 21, 2005

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.  
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
**8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Design Exhibitors will be permitted to "touch up" designs and replace blossoms *only*.  
Registration  
Information  
**Tour #7 – Toyota Plant, Kentucky Speedway**

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
**8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
 9:00 a.m. to Completion  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 3:00 p.m. to Completion  
 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. to Completion  
 9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n

Judges and Clerks Instructions  
**Tour #8 – Grand Victoria Casino**  
 Judging of Show  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 AVSA Information and Sales  
**Presentation #1** – “African Violets in Japan” by Kazuo Horikoshi  
**Presentation #2** – “Basic Skills of Growing African Violets” by Sharon Holtzman  
 Ways & Means Table, Minneapolis Promotional Table  
 Commercial Sales Open  
 AVSA Information and Sales  
 Publications Committee Meeting  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 Information  
 Registration  
 Photography – Library and AVM  
 Membership & Promotions Committee meeting  
 Nominating Committee meeting  
 Future Conventions Meeting  
 Opening Reception (cash bar)  
 Opening Dinner – Show awards will be announced  
 Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only**

#### FRIDAY, April 22, 2005

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.  
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**  
 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Showroom open to photographers only  
 Teacher's Breakfast  
 Information  
 Registration  
 Affiliates Breakfast & Meeting  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 AVSA Information & Sales  
 Show Room Open  
 Commercial Sales Open  
**Presentation #3** – “Sports, Mutants, and Seedlings: In Search of the Queen” by Dr. Jeff Smith  
**Presentation #4** – “Violets in the Taita Hills of Kenya” by Dr. Kamua Mbuthia  
 Ways & Means Table, Minneapolis Promotional Table  
 Luncheon and Auction  
 Information  
 Registration  
 AVSA Information & Sales  
 Hospitality Room Open  
**Presentation #5** – “Design Mechanics: A Panel Discussion” - Leonard Re, Moderator  
 Panelists: Karyn Cichocki, Jeanne Cotten and Mary Everling  
**Presentation #6** – “Preservation of African Violet Species” by Dr. Valerie Prince  
**Tour #9 – Dinner Cruise on the River Queen**  
 Commercial Dinner

#### SATURDAY, April 23, 2005

7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Judges' Breakfast and Workshop  
 Registration  
 Information  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 AVSA Information & Sales  
 Show Room Open  
 Commercial Sales Open  
**Presentation #7** – “Streptocarpus!” by David Thompson  
**Presentation #8** – “Hands on Propagation” by Pat and Gary Dunlap (\$10.00 fee)  
 Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states  
 Ways & Means Table, Minneapolis Promotional Table

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m. to Completion  
 8:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.  
 8:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n  
 9:15 p.m.  
 12:00 m/n

Violets "On Line" Meeting  
**Presentation #9** – "Advanced Judging of Trailers" by Bev Promersberger  
**Presentation #10** – "British African Violets" by Gwen Goodship  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum  
 President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (cash bar)  
 Installation Banquet  
 Commercial Display Tables Checkout  
 Commercial Sales Breakdown  
 Entry Checkout Begins  
 Show Room Closes

#### **SUNDAY, April 24, 2005**

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Sales Breakdown  
 Local Storage Clean-up  
 Commercial Storage Clean-up  
 Show Room Clean-up  
 Board of Directors meeting

### **Directions to Drawbridge Inn**

|                                               |                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| From Lexington/ Louisville                    | I-75 to Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike), Right off the Exit, Left at 1st light onto Royal Drive                                         |
| From Dayton or downtown                       | I-75 South to Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike), Left off Cincinnati the Exit, Left at 2nd light onto Royal Drive                         |
| From Indianapolis                             | I-74 East to I-75 South to Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike), Left off the Exit, Left at the 2nd light onto Royal Drive                   |
| From Huntington WV                            | I-64 west to I-75 north to Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike) Right off the Exit, Left at 1st light onto Royal Drive                       |
| From Greater Cincinnati/<br>Northern Kentucky | I-275 East to I-75 North to Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike), Right off the Exit, Left at 1st light onto Royal Dr. International Airport |

### **Airport Shuttle**

The hotel runs a free shuttle to/from the airport every half hour from 4:30 AM to 2:00 AM. To ensure that the shuttle finds you, you may contact the hotel upon your arrival at (859) 341-2800. They will direct you to the pickup location. You may also contact them prior to your arrival, if you desire.

# CINCINNATI, OHIO AVSA CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

## 1. African Violets in Japan

Thursday, April 21, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Kazuo Horikoshi, Tokyo, Japan

The Japanese people love African violets, but growing conditions there are very different from the United States. They have adapted using materials such as silicic acid and ground oyster shells. The violet and gesneriad growing community there has flourished for thirty years. Kazuo has been a part of this long history by actively importing violets, attending AVSA conventions, and sharing some of the remarkable sports that have occurred on his continent. He will share photos of the people and plants there and give some insight into the differences and similarities of growing and showing in eastern Asia.

## 2. Basic Skills of Growing African Violets

Thursday, April 21, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Sharon Holtzman, Newtown, Ohio

This is a basic course on growing African violets that is targeted especially for newer growers who still have many questions. Sharon has over thirty-five years of experience with African violets and has served as president of several of the Ohio affiliates, as well as an AVSA judge. She is also the hybridizer of the "Newtown" series of violets. Sharon regularly teaches classes in her area at local garden centers and clubs and brings a great deal of expertise to this workshop. This is a fine opportunity for novices to learn the essentials of growing.

## 3. Sports, Mutants, and Seedlings: In Search of the Queen

Friday, April 22, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Jeff Smith, Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Dr. Smith has been working with African violet genetics for over 20 years, researching, hybridizing, and assembling one of the world's largest collections of African violet species. He will describe the genetic differences between sports, mutations and seedlings and give historical examples of how each has impacted the world of African violets. He will also apply the science of genetics to the judging of plants in the sport and seedling classes. Learn some ideas on how to determine if a plant is a genetic improvement or just plain weird.

## 4. Violets in the Taita Hills of Kenya

Friday, April 22, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Kamau W. Mbuthia, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University,  
Bowling Green, Ohio

The Boyce Edens Research Fund supported Dr. Kamau Mbuthia's research project studying forest ecology in the Taita Hills of Kenya in 2002. His study included the habitat of one of the rarest and most endangered African violet species, *Saintpaulia teitensis*. Currently serving as an instructor at Bowling Green State University, Dr. Mbuthia will report on the results of the study and the conservation issues relating to the preservation of *S. teitensis* in the area. His academic credentials include undergraduate studies in Kenya, a master's degree from the United Kingdom, and a Ph.D. from United States. In addition, Dr. Mbuthia has been involved in the conservation of East Africa biodiversity for several years.

## 5. Design Mechanics, A Panel Discussion

Friday, April 22, 2005

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Moderator: Leonard Re, Fountain Valley, California

Panelists: Mary Everling, Columbus, Ohio; Jeanne Cotten, Tulsa, Oklahoma;  
Karyn Cichocki, Lafayette, New Jersey

Learn about the practical methods to make an arrangement stay together and the materials that really work in the delicate art of designing with African violets. Led by the engaging Leonard Re, three diverse but highly successful designers will share their tips and photos. Mary Everling brings professional florist experience and an excellent knowledge of plant material to the panel. Jeanne Cotten is a former teacher and a Master Judge with the National Council of Garden Clubs, who has a very expressive style with a tool box that is the envy of designers everywhere. Karyn Cichocki grows plants as well as she designs, combining a knowledge of solid mechanics with a "think outside the box" approach. This should be excellent for those who are new to design, and help experienced designers find materials and methods that are dependable for executing the most creative ideas.

## 6. Preservation of African Violet Species

Friday, April 22, 2005

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Valerie Pence, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, Ohio

Valerie Pence is on a mission to preserve African violet species, especially *S. rupicola*, in the wild, by mastering the technique of cryopreserving tissue culture lines of this plant. Currently on staff as Director of Plant Research at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Dr. Pence has been using plants and tissue supplied by AVSA's own Dr. Jeff Smith, in a team project with James Madison University in Virginia and the East African Herbarium of the National Museums of Kenya. She will share the progress that is being made in the study and how the knowledge gained will be applied in the future if populations of the species become extinct in nature.

## 7. Streptocarpus!

Saturday, April 23, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

David Thompson, Waterloo, Iowa

Did you catch the fever? *Streptocarpus* fever? Ever since we first saw the hybridizing work of David Thompson in Chicago, there has been an outbreak of enthusiasm for this wonderful relative of violets. David, who has a PhD in systematic botany and taxonomy, does his scientific research on *Antirrhinum* (snapdragons) and *Mimulus* (monkey flowers). Horticulture is just his hobby; he enjoys growing many kinds of plants, including African violets. His hybridizing work lately has focused on streps, however, and he will share photos of some of his newest creations, as well as share some of his techniques for growing them to perfection. You won't want to miss this!

## 8. Hands On Propagation

Saturday, April 23, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Gary and Pat Dunlap, Hillsboro, Missouri

\$10 fee (to be paid when reservation guarantee is received in your registration confirmation packet) If you grow violets, you probably already have a method for propagating leaf cuttings so that you have plants to share with others. But what about using blossom stems or secondary crowns or working with the other gesneriads? Gary and Pat Dunlap, who also own the commercial violet and gesneriad business, Pat's Pets, will show you techniques that work well to produce more offspring that come true. This is a fine opportunity for novices and more advanced growers to master these skills and to learn a few tips from these growers who have over 50 years of experience. All materials and tools will be provided. Limit of 50 students.

## 9. Advanced Judging of Trailers

Saturday, April 23, 2005

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Bev Promersberger, Pensacola, Florida

Trailers are unique. Their form, their masses of leaves, and their delicate mounds of flowers make them far different to grow and to evaluate in shows. An AVSA Judging School Teacher, Bev Promersberger is the lively chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, a recent Continuing Service Award winner, and an award-winning exhibitor of trailers. She will offer guidelines and show slides to guide judges in awarding points and analyzing the perfection of multiple-crowned violets. This popular series is designed specifically for AVSA judges but will also provide useful information to growers and exhibitors.

## 10. British African Violets

Saturday, April 23, 2005

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Gwen Goodship, Berks, England

African violets were in Great Britain before they ever reached the shores of America, and today they continue to be grown and bred there. Gwen, who has grown violets for over forty years, coauthored *African Violets - The Complete Guide* in 1995, is vice chairman and editor for the *Saintpaulia* and *Houseplant Society* in England, and is a frequent attendee of AVSA conventions. She will give us a tour of the English violet world, explaining the differences and challenges that our British allies face.

**African Violet Society of America, Inc.**  
**59th Annual Convention and Show**  
**April 17 – April 24, 2005 • Drawbridge Inn – Ft. Mitchell, KY**

**Call for 2005 Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 23, 2005, at 2:45 p.m. at Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

**Call for 2005 Board of Directors Meeting**

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 20, 2005, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY and Sunday, April 24, 2005, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

**Call for 2005 Open Forum Meeting**

The 19th Annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

**Registration For Judging School For Students & Certificate Renewals**

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday, April 20, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am-12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50 payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Judging Status: Student (1st exam) \_\_\_\_\_ Student Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Auditing \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make checks payable to AVSA in U.S dollars) to: **Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121**. The test will be based on the latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 1998 printing, plus any updates. Winston Goretsky will be teaching the school, but the registration is being sent to Bill because of the postage rates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by March 31, 2005.**

**Attention Judges**

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2005.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **Do Not** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 20, 2005 will be filed and used in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge, you will be notified of your assignment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Classes entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Master \_\_\_\_\_ AGGS \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Council  
Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Minis/Semis \_\_\_\_\_ Trailers \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_ Standards \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_\_\_

**Attention Judges Clerks**

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled with AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any remaining positions will be filled by AVSA members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2005.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Judge \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Member \_\_\_\_\_

**Design Division Reservations**

(Please type or print)  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit eight, **excluding container gardens**)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Choices: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enter the following Container Garden Classes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries will be accepted ONLY if postmarked February 6, 2005 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted.** Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations, **no later than April 6, 2005** to: Janice Beaty, 900 Kenwyn Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43220.

# AVSA's 59th Annual Convention & Show

## "Violets Reign in the Queen City"

### April 17 - April 24, 2005 - Drawbridge Inn • Ft. Mitchell, KY

#### AVSA Convention Registration Form

**NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form; photocopies may be used if more are needed.**

Please send this completed pre-registration form, with your check, money order, or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to **AVSA**. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by March 17, 2005. There will be a **\$5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations**. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information, and any materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

|                    |           |       |            |                   |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Membership #       | Last Name | First | Initial    | Area Code/Phone # |
| Street or P.O. Box | Apt. #    |       | City/State | Zip               |

Email address (confirmations will be emailed if possible) \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest, or child attending. Photocopies may be used.)**

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- |                          |                  |                            |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member    | (E) Judge        | (H) Commercial Member      | (K) Board Member        |
| (B) Life Member          | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner    | (M) Non-Member (guest)  |
| (D) Associate Member     |                  |                            |                         |

This is my (#) \_\_\_\_\_ convention. Name to go on Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**    \_\_\_\_\_ **No**    **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?**  
**(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)**

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

|              |         |            |                   |
|--------------|---------|------------|-------------------|
| Relationship | Address | City/State | Area Code/Phone # |
|--------------|---------|------------|-------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TRAVEL BY:</b><br>Personal Car _____ Plane _____<br>Rental Car _____ Airline _____<br>Other _____<br>RV _____<br>If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____<br>If by plane, departure day/date and time _____ | <b>ACCOMMODATIONS:</b><br>Drawbridge Inn _____<br>Home _____<br>Other _____ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Package Deal (includes registration, both banquets, and Auction Luncheon)    \$146.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Package not available after March 17, 2005)**

**After March 17, 2005, each registration will be \$75.00 or \$78.00 respectively.**

**REGISTRATION:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount) .....                                                                                                                                                                                              | \$50.00 | \$ _____ |
| AVSA or Associate Member (after March 17, 2005) .....                                                                                                                                                                                             | \$75.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                    | \$53.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Member (Guest) (after March 17, 2005) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$78.00 | \$ _____ |
| International Member (Early Bird Discount) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$50.00 | \$ _____ |
| International Member (after March 17, 2005) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                 | \$75.00 | \$ _____ |
| Commuter fee - If you are not staying at the Drawbridge Inn or at your primary residence, add this amount to your registration for the use of the hotel facilities. You MUST indicate your accommodations above, or the fee will be charged. .... |         |          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$82.00 | \$ _____ |
| <b>NEW:</b> One day registration (allows registrant to participate for one day of convention)                                                                                                                                                     |         |          |
| Please indicate: Thurs _____ Fri _____ Sat _____    Total days marked _____ x. ....                                                                                                                                                               | \$25.00 | \$ _____ |

**TOTAL REGISTRATION    \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Meals:**

|                                                                                 |         |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| _____ 1. Wed. "Meet the Board of Director's" Luncheon - Ham Deli Sandwich ..... | \$17.00 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 2. Thurs. Opening Dinner - Chicken Wellington .....                       | \$41.00 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 3. Fri. Teachers Breakfast - French Toast .....                           | \$14.00 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 4. Fri. Affiliates Breakfast - Executive Continental .....                | \$13.50 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 5. Fri. Luncheon/Auction - Beef Stroganoff .....                          | \$28.00 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 6. Fri. Commercial Dinner - BBQ Ribs & Chicken .....                      | \$34.50 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 7. Sat. Judges Breakfast - Country Platter (eggs, bacon, potatoes) .....  | \$15.00 | \$ _____        |
| _____ 8. Sat. Installation Banquet - Beef Filet & Chicken Breast .....          | \$48.00 | \$ _____        |
| <b>TOTAL MEALS</b>                                                              |         | <b>\$ _____</b> |

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, BEFORE March 17, 2005. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. **REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

**TOURS (meal is included in Tour 9)**

- |          |                                                                               |         |          |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| _____ 1. | Mon. Apr. 18 Delhi Gardens, Gold Star Chili, Jungle Jim's .....               | \$31.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 2. | Mon. Apr. 18 Newport Aquarium, Newport on the Levee, Sightseeing Cruise ..... | \$55.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 3. | Tues. Apr. 19 Benken's Florist and Museum Center .....                        | \$36.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 4. | Tues. Apr. 19 Krohn Conservatory, Rookwood, Art Museum .....                  | \$35.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 5. | Wed. Apr. 20 Kentucky Horse Park, Yuko on the Elkhorn .....                   | \$40.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 6. | Wed. Apr. 20 Cincinnati Zoo, Mainstrasse Village, Cathedral Basilica .....    | \$34.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 7. | Thurs. Apr. 21 Toyota Plant, Kentucky Speedway .....                          | \$26.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 8. | Thurs. Apr. 21 Grand Victoria Casino .....                                    | \$32.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 9. | Fri. Apr. 22 Dinner Cruise on the River Queen .....                           | \$60.00 | \$ _____ |

**TOTAL TOURS**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 58th Tucson Convention and New Introductions  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum"  
 Moderator: Jack Wilson  
 Panelists: Dr. Ralph Robinson, Paul Sorano, and Pat Hancock

**PRESENTATIONS:** (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Thursday April 21, 2005

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "African Violets in Japan" by Kazuo Horikoshi  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Basic Skills of Growing African Violets" by Sharon Holtzman

Friday, April 22, 2005

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Sports, Mutants and Seedlings: In Search of the Queen" by Dr. Jeff Smith  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Violets in the Taita Hills of Kenya" by Dr. Kamua Mbuthia  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 5. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Design Mechanics: A Panel Discussion" - Leonard Re, Moderator  
 Panelists: Karyn Cichocki, Jeanne Cotten, and Mary Everling  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 6. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Preservation of the African Violet Species" by Dr. Valerie Prince

Saturday April 23, 2005

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Streptocarpus!" by David Thompson  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 8. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Hands on Propagation" by Pat & Gary Dunlap - \$10.00 fee  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 9. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Advanced Judging of Trailers" by Bev Promersberger  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 10. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "British African Violets" by Gwen Goodship

**PAYMENT:**

Total Package \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Registration  
 (including commuter fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Tours \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please double check to ensure all numbers are listed correctly**  
 Check one:

☐ Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed

Signature (If using card) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Cancellations must be received  
 by March 17, 2005 to be entitled to a refund.**

There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

**Send payment and completed registration form to:**  
**Convention Registration**

**AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722**  
**(409) 839-4725**

**NEW: Wherever possible, confirmations will be emailed.**

## AVSA 2005 Cincinnati Convention Grower's Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum

Wednesday, April 20, 2005 . . . . . 8:15 p.m.

Moderator . . . . . Jack Wilson

Panelists . . . . . Dr. Ralph Robinson, Paul Sorano,  
 and Pat Hancock

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques, and perhaps even using African violets in designs - don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.

**Hotel Reservation**  
**2005 AVSA Convention Show and Annual Membership Meeting**  
**The African Violet Society of America, Inc.**

Please mail to:  
**Drawbridge Inn**  
2477 Royal Drive  
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017  
In Kentucky (800) 352-9866  
Outside Kentucky (800) 354-9793

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharing Room with \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to **Drawbridge Inn**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ One Night's Deposit Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Drawbridge Inn**. Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to check-in. Phone number: 1-520-881-4200 ask for Reservation Department. Identify that you are with the African Violet Society of America.

|            |                                    |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Room Rate: | Main Building                      | Garison Building (detached)        |
|            | \$82.00 (up to 4 persons per room) | \$72.00 (up to 4 persons per room) |
|            | + Tax of 10.24%                    | + Tax of 10.24%                    |

|                                 |                                                                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accommodations requested:       | _____ number of persons in room                                |
| _____ Single                    | Arrival Date _____<br>(check in 3:00 pm)                       |
| _____ Double (two persons)      |                                                                |
| _____ Triple (three persons)    | Departure Date _____<br>(check out by 12:00 noon)              |
| _____ Quad (four persons)       |                                                                |
| _____ Smoking _____ Non Smoking | Bed types available: (double-double, queen)                    |
|                                 | Reservations <b>must</b> be received by: <b>March 17, 2005</b> |
|                                 | The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date. |

An early checkout fee of \$25.00 is charged to anyone leaving before their scheduled check out date.

The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to/from the Hotel and Airport.  
**Call for pickup.** Be sure to indicate flight arrival time on your registration form.

## “Violets Reign in the Queen City”

by  
Thelma Miller - *Show Chairman*  
and  
Mary Martin - *Vice Show Chairman*

We hope everyone is planning to enter our 2005 Convention Show. All of our committees are hard at work to make sure you and your plants and designs have a smooth entry. We think you'll find this show to be one of the easiest to access because the hotel is laid out perfectly for entries. There will be easy access to the classification and grooming area. The show room is large so we will have lots of room to display all of your exhibits. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Cincinnati!

## HOSTS – HOSTESSES Cincinnati and AVSA Need You

More individuals than ever before are needed to host the Cincinnati show room! The Show will be open to the public for *two* full days and the public will be paying an admission fee. Hosts are needed to greet our guests as they enter the room, to verify that they have paid admission, to encourage them to ask questions, and to invite them to join AVSA (the cost of admission will be applied to their AVSA membership dues). This is an important job!!

If you would be willing to serve for a one hour shift, please complete the coupon below by March 17, 2005, and send it to: Holly Jerig, 4540 Vista Dr., Canal Winchester, OH 43110 [jerigh@nationwide.com](mailto:jerigh@nationwide.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred time: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ or Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

### IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$82.00 - Main Building      \$72.00 Garison Building (detached)  
Plus Tax of 10.24%

Non-Smoker \_\_\_\_\_ Smoker \_\_\_\_\_ No Preference \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: Under 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 51 and Over \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

**All requests must be made by March 3, 2005** so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 17, 2005.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

## WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 58th Tucson, AZ Convention. They will be shown at the Wednesday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 2004 Tucson Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by March 17, 2005 to:

Nancy G. Hayes  
9 Cobblestone Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003

## ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Wednesday Night Social at the 2005 Convention in Cincinnati. This year's narrator will be Nancy Hayes. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides before March 17, 2005, to:

Nancy Hayes  
9 Cobblestone Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003

# Showcase

## *Mistral*

*Exhibited by:* **Esther Hopkins**

*Hybridized by:* **Michael Tremblay**

*Standard*



*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Frosted Whisper*

*Exhibited by:* **Bruno Curcuruto**

*Hybridized by:* **R. Scott**

*Large*



*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

# 2005 Convention Awards

Cincinnati, Ohio

by Sue Hoffman

## Society Awards - Amateur Horticulture Division

Best African Violet in Show - \$50 & Tri-color rosette  
2nd Best African Violet in Show - \$35 & rosette  
3rd Best African Violet in Show - \$25 & rosette  
Best Standard - \$25 & rosette  
Best Trailer - \$25 & rosette  
Best Semiminiature - \$25 & rosette  
Best Miniature - \$25 & rosette  
Best Species - \$25 & rosette  
Best Vintage Violet - \$25 & rosette  
Best Other Gesneriad - \$25 & rosette  
Sweepstakes in Horticulture - \$50 & rosette  
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture - \$25 & rosette  
Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette  
Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette

## Society Awards - Design Division

Best Design in Show - \$50 & Tri-color rosette  
2nd Best Design in Show - \$35 & rosette  
3rd Best Design in Show - \$25 & rosette  
Sweepstakes in Design - \$50 & rosette  
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design - \$25 & rosette

## Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet in show - \$50 & rosette  
2nd Best African Violet in show - \$35 & rosette  
3rd Best African Violet in show - \$25 & rosette  
Sweepstakes in Specimen plants - \$50 & rosette  
Best Other Gesneriad - \$25 & rosette  
Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette  
Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette  
Best New Cultivar - \$75, Blue rosette & plaque  
2nd Best New Cultivar - \$50 & Red rosette  
3rd Best New Cultivar - \$25 & White rosette

## Specified Awards - Commercial Division

Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
Best New Cultivar - \$100 - in memory of Frank Tinari - Mary & Art Boland (VA)  
2nd Best New Cultivar - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)

## Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300, rosette & Coin - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
Best Robinson Collection - \$150 & rosette - The Violet Barn (NY)

2nd Best Robinson Collection - \$50 - The Violet Barn (NY)  
Best Buckeye Collection - \$150 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)  
2nd Best Buckeye Collection - \$50 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)  
Best African Violet in Show - Silver Memorial for Fannie & Elmer Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)  
Best Miniature - \$25 - Susan Hapner (MO)  
Best Semiminiature - \$25 - in memory of Fannie & Elmer Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)  
Best Species in Show - \$50 - Cape Cod Violetry (MA)  
Best Species in Show - \$15 - Hoosier AVS (IN)  
2nd Best Species in Show - \$10 - Hoosier AVS (IN)  
2nd Best Species in Show - \$25 - Nancy Hayes (CT)  
Best Standard Chimera - \$50 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)  
Best Vintage Violet - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)  
Best Vintage Violet - \$25 - *in memory of her grandmother, Mary Etta Freeborn - Georgetta Brickey (CA)*  
Best Girl Foliage - \$25 - Sue Hoffmann (VA)  
Best Miniature Girl Foliage - \$30 - Tampa AVS (FL)  
Best Tuberous Gesneriad - \$10 - Linda Neumann (OH)  
Best Sinningia - \$25 - Ovella Hall (AR)

## Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Horticulture

Best Aca's Red Ember - \$25 - Beverley Williams (ON, Canada)  
Best The Alps - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)  
Best Arizona Heat - \$50 - Tucson AVS (AZ)  
Best Blue Tail Fly - \$20 - Terri Morgan (AZ)  
Best Concord - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)  
Best Cutie (#7141) - \$20 - Rocky Mountain AV Council (CO)  
Best Dean's Rosalie - \$25 - Shirley & Sandy Sanders (TX)  
Best Emilie Savage - \$25 - Jim & Linda Owens (OH)  
Best Everdina - \$45 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)  
Best Frozen in Time - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)  
Best Irish Flirt - \$50 and rosette - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)  
Best "The King" (Maas) - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)  
Best Lilian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) - \$75 - in memory of Frank Tinari - Anne Tinari (PA)  
Best Louisiana Lagniappe - \$100 - The Baton Rouge Convention group/Elmer Godeny  
Best Maas' Mark - \$25 - in memory of Max Maas - Hattie Baggett (AZ)  
Best Mickey Mouse - \$25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)  
Best Nancy Hayes (trailer) - \$25 - Nancy Hayes (CT)  
Best Ness' Candy Pink - \$15 - in memory of Don Ness - AVS of Minnesota (MN)  
Best Ness' Cranberry Swirl - \$30 - in memory of Don Ness - AVS of Minnesota (MN)  
Best Ness' Crinkle Blue - \$25 - in memory of Don Ness - Lakes Area Violet Growers (MN)  
Best Ozark Sinningia in the Sinningia class - \$35 - Dave's Violets (MO)  
Best Precious Pink - \$50 - Hortense and Ray Pittman (TX)  
Best Rebel's Splatter Kake - \$25 - Ruth Bann (MN)  
Best Tulsa Boy - \$25 - AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)  
Best Vintage Wine - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)

### **Specified Awards - Design Division**

Design Sweepstakes - \$25 -Janet Riemer (NJ)

### **Other Awards - Amateur Horticulture or Undesignated**

#### **\$250 donated by:**

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#### **\$200 donated by:**

William Sugg (TX)

#### **\$100 donated by:**

Illinois AVS (IL)

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#### **\$75 donated by:**

Georgetta Brickey (CA) - *in memory of her grandmother,  
Mary Etta Freeborn*

#### **\$50 donated by:**

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Bill Price (BC, Canada)

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (FL)

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Carol Brown (VA)

Doris & John Brownlie (ON, Canada)

Central Texas Judges Council (TX)

Cincinnati AVS (OH)

Columbus AVS (OH) - *in honor of Linda Owens*

Ronald Ennis (NJ)

First AVS of Dallas (TX)

First AVS of Spartanburg (SC)

First Lakeland AVS (FL)

First Nighter AVS (TX)

Bill & Paula Foster (TX)

Dolores Gibbs (TX)

Bill & Gerri Goins (TX)

Jan's Workshop - Jan Davidson (TX)

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto (ON, Canada)

Nelly Levine (CO)

Ruth & Will Loomis (AZ)

Magic Knight AVS (TX)

Mary Martin (OH)

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Milwaukee AVS (WI)

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Ohio State AVS (OH)

Pomona Valley AVS (CA)

Quad City AVS (IA)

Fran Ratte (CO)

Leonard & Elaine Re (CA)

Warren & Vicki Ringer (CA)

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Upper Pinellas AVS (FL)

Donna Vogelpohl (OH) - *in memory of Gran*

#### **\$20 donated by:**

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#### **\$10 donated by:**

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First AVS of Wichita Falls (TX)

#### **Other donations:**

\$10 gift certificate - Violet Venture - Fay Wagman (NY)

### **Other Awards - Design Division**

#### **\$25 donated by:**

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Janice Beaty (OH)

First AVS of Spartanburg (SC)

Kathryn A. Hedgepeth (VA)

Kathi Lahti (MN)

#### **\$20 donated by:**

Metro. St. Louis AV Council (MO)

#### **\$15 donated by:**

Charmion Woolfe (CA)

#### **\$10 donated by:**

Amethyst AVC of St. Louis (MO)

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Thanks to the many individuals, clubs, and councils who have offered their generous award support for the 2005 show in Cincinnati!

If your name is not on this list, there is still time to be included.

Send your check or money order payable in U.S. Funds and made out to: "AVSA Awards" to: Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman, 2809 Forest Hills Court, Virginia Beach VA 23454.

We look forward to hearing from you! Final deadline to be listed in the Show Souvenir book is February 15, 2005.

View a current Awards listing on the AVSA web site at AVSA.org.

Although every attempt has been made to list awards correctly, we reserve the right to modify or change these listings.

# Showcase

## *Pink Dove*

*Exhibited by:* **Kathy Lahti**

*Hybridized by:* **S. Sorano**

*Miniature*



*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Plumberry Glow*

*Exhibited by:* **Sandra Lex**

*Hybridized by:*

**Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Sorano**

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## ***RD's Kerry'n***

*3rd Best in Show (Commercial)*

*2004 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: **Kent Stork***

*Hybridized by: **R. Townsend***

*Standard*

# Location and Light

by Susan Gimblet

## Location

The old adage "location, location, location" applies to violets, too. African violets grow best in a temperature range of 60-80 degrees F, need light to bloom, but that light can be obtained in several ways. Violets may be grown successfully on window sills, near a brightly lighted window, or under fluorescent lights. As for all plants, light is essential for the growth of African violets. Plants make their own food through photosynthesis from water, light, and air.

Selecting an appropriate window for growing violets may involve a bit of trial and error. When talking to growers, there are almost as many options of window location as there are growers! Grandma always advocated a north window. However, most literature recommends "bright light". What is "bright light?" Let's define it as slightly sunny, warm, (in that 70 ish range), and lasting for eight hours a day.

I live in New England, and our days are quite variable. So, how do we accomplish this? Select a window that meets the above criteria as closely as possible. Note how the light shifts throughout the course of the day. This location may vary depending on the time of year. A south or west window may serve well in the winter but provide too strong a light in the summer. Maybe an east window with good early morning light will work. Trees and shrubs, a porch roof, or roof overhang may shade windows and will have an effect on which location works best. Experiment, try violets in more than one window, and monitor their progress.

Once a window location has been selected, think about where the violets are to be placed in that window. We are looking for bright light but want to avoid direct sunlight that may damage the violet. Sheer curtains may be the answer to defuse strong light and protect the violets. Or, the violets may be set back from the window sill, either on a table or plant stand. I grew my first African violets on a coffee table set about three to four feet from a south-facing window. This worked beautifully.

As the seasons change, it may be necessary to move the violets to different locations to follow the sun. In addition, during the winter, violets will suffer if placed too close to a cold windowpane. Again, consider moving the violets back from the window to a table.

As we monitor our violets growing on or near the window sill, we also need to perform another task to assure good growing. Any plant will lean or grow towards its light source. African violets are no exception. When growing on a window sill, the violets will be getting light from only one direction. It is essential to turn the plants a quarter turn every day or every other day to assure good symmetry. Use this as an

opportunity to check the plant for suckers, pests, uneven growth, etc.

## Lights

The final way to grow African violets is under lights on a plant stand. Growing violets under lights solves some of the above challenges, while presenting new ones. Growing violets under lights means using fluorescent light. Standard size fluorescent light fixtures contain two light tubes. There are a wide variety of light tubes available on the market. Cool white, warm white, or special growing lights may be used. One cool white tube combined with one warm white tube will provide the full spectrum of light required at a reasonable cost. This combination is very popular among African violet growers. Pauline Bartholomew, in her book *Growing to Show*, provides an excellent in-depth discussion on fluorescent lights. Suffice it to say that the terms cool white and warm white do not refer to the temperature of the lights, but to the amount of growth rays emitted by the light tubes.

Once the light stand has been obtained and set up with the desired fluorescent lights, it is time to add the violets. Here again some experimentation is in order. Is it ever easy? As a rule of thumb, light colored foliage plants should be placed at the center of the tubes under the strongest light. Dark colored plants are then placed at the ends of the tubes where the light is not as intense. Variegated plants should be placed near the center of the tubes, again to obtain as much light as possible. They will retain their variegation better when grown under cooler conditions and should be placed on the lowest shelves of the light stand.

The fluorescent lights are to be set up with timers to assure consistent light exposure. Most growers set their timers for the lights to be on 12 hours each day. There have been various articles in *Ye Bay Stater*, our club publication, and the AVSA magazine about variations on this timing. It is recommended that you begin with 12 hours of light and then adjust this as you monitor your plants. If the light stand is in a room with a lot of natural light, the timing on the fluorescent lights might be adjusted. If the light stand is in a basement with very little or no natural light, the timing of the light tubes may need to be increased. If the stand is in the basement or other cool area, consider running the lights at night to assist in maintaining the violets within the desired temperature range.

Standard violets are placed such that the center crown is approximately 10-12" from the lights. Semi miniatures, miniatures, and plantlets need to be closer to the lights, usually about 6-8" from the light.

As with window growing, monitor your plants. Look them over when watering. The violets will "tell" you if they need more or less light. In the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges*, there are some criteria for evaluating whether your violets are getting adequate light.

"Too little light: Indications of insufficient light are lengthening of the petioles and lack of bloom. Since bud formation is governed by light intensity, the most frequent reason for lack of bloom in African violets is not enough light."

"Too much light: Indications of too much light are shortening of the petioles, curling up of the center leaves, and bleaching and yellowing of the foliage."

Some violets will not grow well under fluorescent lights and should be placed on a windowsill.

I can't stress enough the importance of looking at your violets on a regular basis. I may not have the time to do it every time I water, but I do try to do it, at the very least, on a monthly basis. Once you begin this scrutinizing, it will not take long to notice when a violet is unhappy. It is much easier to resolve a light problem early before a lovely plant becomes misshapen.

Enjoy your violets!!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



## Preparing for the Show

by Annette Kennedy

When growing an African violet for show, the aim is to grow a perfect African violet. This may seem daunting, especially for a beginner, so what I suggest is that you aim to grow the best African violet that you can. The basic things to aim for are growth, blooms, and symmetry.

Some of the things to tend to are:

**Clean foliage** - some growers like to wash the leaves with lukewarm water; this is something I have never done. I do, however, groom my African violets using a soft brush. In doing this you may recognize other things your plant may require.

**Baby leaves** - are smaller and around the outside of the plant. These should be removed, as should marked or damaged leaves. Before doing this check to see that your plant will remain symmetrical. If not it may be better to leave the leaf on.

**Side shoots** - when grooming or repotting, you may notice side shoots or suckers growing, and these should be carefully removed so as not to damage your plant. Keep watching for these as they sneak out even when you are looking. Some African violets seem to do this more than others.

**Repot** - as your African violet grows, toward the show it may be necessary to repot it into a slightly bigger pot. When you repot you may also like to put a collar around your plant to support the leaves.

**Food** - African violets need to be fed regularly to help them grow and flower well. Some growers use different plant foods at different times, some of which may be a bloom booster. This is something to consider, but you may have just as good results using your regular nutrient. African violets

can also be foliar fed, but refer to information sources first.

**Disbud** - to help African violets develop good foliage, it is necessary to disbud them up until about 6-8 weeks before the show; then let them come into flower, right on time for the show. Rather than having a plant with no flowers, try having two plants; one that you let flower naturally for your enjoyment and the second that you disbud and grow for the show.

**Light** - if growing under fluorescent lights, you may consider increasing the light hours gradually, using the count-down as a guide. If growing in natural light, turn your plants regularly to ensure symmetry.

**Leaf position** - you may observe that a leaf is slightly out of alignment, but you can encourage or train it to be in the correct position by moving it gradually into place and using a toothpick or hairpin to hold it. Be sure to remove these when entering for the show.

**Blooms** - closer to the show remove tired or spent blooms to ensure they are all looking nice and fresh.

**Transport** - as the show nears, consider how to package and transport your African violet.

Remember biggest is not always best. A large plant may be too open or have tired leaves, whereas a smaller, symmetrical plant may have all the qualities a judge is looking for. Do not judge your own. It is easy to be critical of your plant, but if it is clean and healthy and has blooms, you will be surprised how good it looks with all the others on the show bench.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

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# New Friends from Old Friends – Growing and Showing the Vintage Violets

by Rod Lowe, AVS of San Francisco

Each year countless new varieties of violets come on the market. Many of these are extremely beautiful with colors and patterns never seen before. It is a wonder that there are always new developments. Sadly, an unintended result of all these new varieties is that people stop growing the older, vintage violets. In an effort to get the latest, newest, and brightest violets available on the market today, many hobbyists let go of the older, tried and true varieties that have been so important to our African violet history. We all have limited space and there comes a time when we must make some room and weed our collections. Too often, the vintage varieties suffer as a result. I offer this article as a testament to the older varieties and also as a challenge to growers both novice and expert alike.

I have been growing African violets ever since I was a child. My first experience was putting leaves from my grandmother's plants into a cup of water covered with tinfoil. I watched as the roots and then tiny plantlets began to form. I very carefully planted the tiny plants and nurtured them as they grew. When they finally bloomed, I was so proud! Thus began my long association with African violets.

I joined the AVSA and attended meetings of the AVS of San Francisco. I wasn't really interested in showing plants, but I did enjoy going to the shows to see all the different varieties. I bought violets from different vendors and remember getting plants from Tinari Greenhouses many years ago. I ordered the older violets that I had seen in the books and magazines like 'Firebird', 'Seafoam', and 'Lillian Jarrett', and I enjoyed growing them. Many years passed, and then I went away to school. Although I still kept a few plants, I didn't have the room to grow as many as I liked, and I gave many away. When I was able to 'collect' violets again, I searched for those varieties that I enjoyed long ago. Yes, there were many new ones that I liked, but I still wanted the oldies that I had before. Unfortunately, they were not readily available.

Reading the AVSA magazine, I found Barbara Elkin's column about Vintage Violets, and I sent her an inquiry about 'Seafoam'. She sent me the name of a source, and I contacted the person who generously sent me leaves. I also unexpectedly received leaves of 'Garnet Elf' from this person as well. I was familiar with 'Firebird' but not 'Garnet Elf'. Little did I know that this would turn out to be a most fortuitous gift.

As the vintage leaves took root and started producing plantlets, I continued to try many other named violets as well as buying those that I found at garden centers and nurseries. I



even tried my hand at hybridizing. I started the leaves under lights and then when the plants got too big and needed more space, I moved them to a bookshelf in front of a window in natural light. 'Seafoam' grew slowly and proved to be a very weak plant, which I eventually lost. I still would like to try growing it again. 'Garnet Elf', on the other hand, did remarkably well, and it grew easily in my window.

As time went on, 'Garnet Elf' matured and was (and is) always in bloom. Once again, I was reading Barbara Elkin's column and saw that someone was now searching for 'Garnet Elf'.

Wanting to return the gift that was so graciously given to me, I contacted Barbara to let her know that I grew the plant. She told me that it was one of her favorite violets (it is one of mine as well!) and that she used it in her hybridizing. Partly because of Barbara's praise for 'Garnet Elf', I began to give more attention to my plant and entertained thoughts about showing it.

With encouragement from Gary Beck and other members of the AVS of San Francisco, I decided to try exhibiting 'Garnet Elf' in our 'Violet Festival'. I had never shown an African violet before and entered 'Garnet Elf' in the novice class. Much to my amazement, I got first runner-up or Second Best in Show. It was my first time ever exhibiting, and it'll certainly not be the last! At the show, many people asked about the plant and remarked how beautiful it was. Lynn Lombard, one of the judges, said that she had not seen 'Garnet Elf' for many years and she encouraged me to write this article. A new friend as a result from growing an old violet!

The moral of this story is not to forget the past. There are so many beautiful violets available, and no one can grow them all. The new ones are exciting, but the older cultivars also need to be appreciated and saved from extinction. Grow one to show. They can be spectacular when grown well. I've read that everyone should grow at least one vintage violet and also to NEVER throw a vintage violet away. I wholeheartedly agree. I used to think that I could always get another one of a given variety, but if you are the only one growing it, what will you do when it's gone? If you don't want a vintage violet any more, bring it to your club and give it to someone who might have better luck with it. Please also share leaves of the older varieties freely as well. If more people grow the oldies, the better the chance that they will still be around for all to enjoy. If everyone would become a champion for and caretaker of just one vintage violet, then we will preserve our African violet history. Grow an old violet and make some new friends.

# DRENCHING

by Nancy Robitaille

Drenching is necessary when you have insects in the soil. Dunking would be a better term for those few times you need to dunk just the foliage in a solution. For foliar bugs and disease, the treatments are made fairly easy. A foliar spray usually does the job. Drenching is a whole other story.

Proper drenching in cases of soil insects means spraying both under and over the foliage to chase the bug to supposed safety in the soil. (Some soil born insects can and will go up into the foliage for safety.) Once the poison is on the foliage, the bugs won't climb back but will go anywhere where there is less poison - even on wicks.

## Measuring:

Careful measuring is very important. Poisons can be dangerous. Too much and you can harm the plant; too little and you won't kill the enemy. When gallons, (imperial gallons in Canada), liters, mm, and cm as well as portions of a teaspoon are used for measuring, it becomes very confusing to calculate how much of the poison you need for the quantity of water in your watering can.

## Timing of Treatments:

Most drenches call for three treatments in order that you first get the adult bugs; then, the second treatment would get the hatching baby bugs. The third treatment should get the last of the bugs. These treatments should be spaced out in 5-7 days depending when the insects hatch.

## Drenching:

In order to get a thorough drenching, start with the top, spraying thoroughly, then make solutions for the soil.

## Safety precautions:

There is another very important aspect of using poisons. Poisons are often camouflaged in a less a frightening term,

"chemicals" - but nonetheless, they are poisons that can put you in the hospital or possibly kill a child or an animal.

It cannot be stressed enough to always wear protective clothing. This includes long sleeves, high necked garments, and plastic or rubber gloves. Eye precautions are also a good thing although eye glasses can be used as well. A thorough washing of exposed area is also necessary.

## Doing the tiresome job:

The easiest way I have found is to work from the tray of plants in the plant room. The first time I had soil mealy bugs, I took each tray into the kitchen where the poison and water was located. Each tray was carried to the kitchen for treatment. I poured from the watering can the solution over foliage and soil and took time to clean the mess afterwards.

My second outbreak was treated much differently. I brought each prepared watering can to the plant room and used a turkey baster for most of the job. A spray bottle was clearly marked "Poison" so as not to get mixed with other bottles for fertilizer. This time, I carefully sprayed the foliage, then drenched the soil with a turkey baster. Pouring the liquid over the soil from a watering can often causes messy spills, and that means you have to clean up the excess so plants won't be burned. The turkey baster will have to be filled twice at least for larger pots in order for you to make a thorough job of it.

Before drenching plants, they should be damp, not dry or soaking. Soaking them before would dilute the poison solution. A dry plant might allow bugs to find a safe haven with no poison. Then you have a relapse.

One should never use these poisonous chemicals without concentrating on the job at hand. Remember not to smoke or eat anything when you are working.

Keep a deep respect for those cans and bottles of poison. Remember, they are supposed to be our safeguards, not our enemies.

## In Memory

### Vyacheslav Paramonov

Central Gesneriad Society, Timiryazev State Biology Museum, and many African violet lovers have lost a friend. **Vyacheslav Paramonov**, of Russia, died unexpectedly on September 29, 2004.

He was known as the founder and the first President of Central Gesneriad Society.

Vyacheslav shared his devotion for growing violets and *Streptocarpus* with many people all over Russia and abroad. He lectured on African violets and contributed articles to high profile magazines. Some of his beautiful photos can be seen in AVSA photo gallery.

Vyacheslav also mentored many African violet growers, thus sharing his extensive knowledge of the culture. It is true to say that he was always open to new interests and challenges: of late, he focused his attention on hybridizing *Streptocarpus*.

Vyacheslav will be missed by many in the violet world.

### Helen Bartel

**Helen Bartel** was instrumental in forming the Milwaukee AVS in 1950, the Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs in 1955, and had been a member of AVSA since 1951. She served as a judge and held many club and convention positions. As a commercial member, her plants were always in demand. Helen was a very knowledgeable grower and always willing to help others.

### Loraine Schiebel

**Loraine Schiebel** was a longstanding member of the Milwaukee AVS. The club Library was in her care for many years. Loraine grew the most lovely sinningias, the very tiny ones, and shared them with other club members.

**Loraine Schiebel** and **Helen Bartel** were best friends and were always together at the shows and meetings.

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

January Moon Table

| Date             | Sign        | Element | Nature        | Phase        |
|------------------|-------------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 Sat.           | Virgo       | Earth   | Barren        | 3rd          |
| 2 Sun. 11:19 am  | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd          |
| 3 Mon.           | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 4th 12:46 pm |
| 4 Tue. 7:00 pm   | Scorpio     | Water   | Fruitful      | 4th          |
| 5 Wed.           | Scorpio     | Water   | Fruitful      | 4th          |
| 6 Thu. 10:44 pm  | Sagittarius | Fire    | Barren        | 4th          |
| 7 Fri.           | Sagittarius | Fire    | Barren        | 4th          |
| 8 Sat. 11:11 pm  | Capricorn   | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 4th          |
| 9 Sun.           | Capricorn   | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 4th          |
| 10 Mon. 10:07 pm | Aquarius    | Air     | Barren        | New 7:03 am  |
| 11 Tue.          | Aquarius    | Air     | Barren        | 1st          |
| 12 Wed. 9:50 pm  | Pisces      | Water   | Fruitful      | 1st          |
| 13 Thu.          | Pisces      | Water   | Fruitful      | 1st          |
| 14 Fri.          | Pisces      | Water   | Fruitful      | 1st          |
| 15 Sat. 12:27 am | Aries       | Fire    | Barren        | 1st          |
| 16 Sun.          | Aries       | Fire    | Barren        | 1st          |
| 17 Mon. 7:06 am  | Taurus      | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 2nd 1:57 am  |
| 18 Tue.          | Taurus      | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 2nd          |
| 19 Wed. 5:24 pm  | Gemini      | Air     | Barren        | 2nd          |
| 20 Thu.          | Gemini      | Air     | Barren        | 2nd          |
| 21 Fri.          | Gemini      | Air     | Barren        | 2nd          |
| 22 Sat. 5:42 am  | Cancer      | Water   | Fruitful      | 2nd          |
| 23 Sun.          | Cancer      | Water   | Fruitful      | 2nd          |
| 24 Mon. 6:21 pm  | Leo         | Fire    | Barren        | 2nd          |
| 25 Tue.          | Leo         | Fire    | Barren        | Full 5:32 am |
| 26 Wed.          | Leo         | Fire    | Barren        | 3rd          |
| 27 Thu. 6:24 am  | Virgo       | Earth   | Barren        | 3rd          |
| 28 Fri.          | Virgo       | Earth   | Barren        | 3rd          |
| 29 Sat. 5:13 pm  | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd          |
| 30 Sun.          | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd          |
| 31 Mon.          | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd          |

February Moon Table

| Date             | Sign        | Element | Nature        | Phase         |
|------------------|-------------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 Tue. 1:51 am   | Scorpio     | Water   | Fruitful      | 3rd           |
| 2 Wed.           | Scorpio     | Water   | Fruitful      | 4th 2:27 am   |
| 3 Thu. 7:21 am   | Sagittarius | Fire    | Barren        | 4th           |
| 4 Fri.           | Sagittarius | Fire    | Barren        | 4th           |
| 5 Sat. 9:32 am   | Capricorn   | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 4th           |
| 6 Sun.           | Capricorn   | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 4th           |
| 7 Mon. 9:26 am   | Aquarius    | Air     | Barren        | 4th           |
| 8 Tue.           | Aquarius    | Air     | Barren        | New 5:28 pm   |
| 9 Wed. 8:59 am   | Pisces      | Water   | Fruitful      | 1st           |
| 10 Thu.          | Pisces      | Water   | Fruitful      | 1st           |
| 11 Fri. 10:21 am | Aries       | Fire    | Barren        | 1st           |
| 12 Sat.          | Aries       | Fire    | Barren        | 1st           |
| 13 Sun. 3:18 pm  | Taurus      | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 1st           |
| 14 Mon.          | Taurus      | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 1st           |
| 15 Tue.          | Taurus      | Earth   | Semi-fruitful | 2nd 7:16 pm   |
| 16 Wed. 12:18 am | Gemini      | Air     | Barren        | 2nd           |
| 17 Thu.          | Gemini      | Air     | Barren        | 2nd           |
| 18 Fri. 12:13 pm | Cancer      | Water   | Fruitful      | 2nd           |
| 19 Sat.          | Cancer      | Water   | Fruitful      | 2nd           |
| 20 Sun.          | Cancer      | Water   | Fruitful      | 2nd           |
| 21 Mon. 12:54 am | Leo         | Fire    | Barren        | 2nd           |
| 22 Tue.          | Leo         | Fire    | Barren        | 2nd           |
| 23 Wed. 12:44 pm | Virgo       | Earth   | Barren        | Full 11:54 pm |
| 24 Thu.          | Virgo       | Earth   | Barren        | 3rd           |
| 25 Fri. 10:59 pm | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd           |
| 26 Sat.          | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd           |
| 27 Sun.          | Libra       | Air     | Semi-fruitful | 3rd           |
| 28 Mon. 7:21 am  | Scorpio     | Water   | Fruitful      | 3rd           |

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2004 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6

# A Community Project

by Joyce Stenger

Our local club had a membership drive and plant sale at a nearby community center recently. We were giving away older African Violet Magazines (AVMs), AVSA culture folders, and a free Episcia to anyone who would sign up as a new member of Office Violets and Lunch (OVAL). During our promotion an eight-year-old boy came up to our plant table and seemed very interested in our blooming plants. **Pierce Allen** asked me questions about the Episcias that we were "giving away." He really liked the brilliant red blossoms and silvery-green foliage of *Episcia 'Toy Silver'*. So we just gave him a plant. Then we started talking to determine if his teacher would be interested in having our club "adopt" his class. We would provide a workshop on Episcias for the whole class of third-graders. Pierce provided us with contact data and agreed to tell his teacher about what we had discussed.

The next week, we called his third-grade teacher, **Donna Giorno**, at the Whitcomb Elementary School in our neighborhood. After asking several questions about our proposal, the teacher seemed agreeable to the idea of a workshop for her class. She said the idea was timely as their class was studying seeds and plants. We mailed her a letter with data about Episcias, our club history, and a recipe for soil-less mix. We agreed on a date for the workshop the following week. Two members beside myself agreed to help with our annual OVAL Community Project. They were **John Nabers** and **Kathy Hebert**.

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, we loaded up our plant and supplies and met at Whitcomb Elementary School. Mrs. Giorno met us at the office where several people examined our Episcia plant that had seriously overgrown its bubble container. Then we proceeded to the science lab where the workshop was to be held. As John, Kathy, and I set up the workshop, the teacher went to her third-grade classroom and led the 21 students into the lab where we were waiting.

Because Pierce was the one who made all this happen, we asked him to assist us during the workshop. (He was very pleased to help.) His first task was handing each student old newspaper sheets to do their planting on. We provided a short talk about Gesneriads, Episcias, African violets, and online Internet addresses.

Each student received a 2 7/8-inch pot. Felt tip pens were handed out so each student could mark their pot with their

name, date, and the name of the Episcia. While the students were busy with that task, John and Kathy circulated samples of vermiculite, perlite, peat moss, and horticultural charcoal. Each student got to "touch" the different elements that make up soil-less mix.

Next, everyone got a tub with lid and short string to be used as a wick. We showed them how to hold the wick in the pot. Then the students all lined up at the front desk. With John and Kathy's help, each student got a scoop of rooting mix (soil-less mix without peat moss). Then they poked their little finger to make a hole in the mix and we handed them a cutting or stolon from the mother plant.

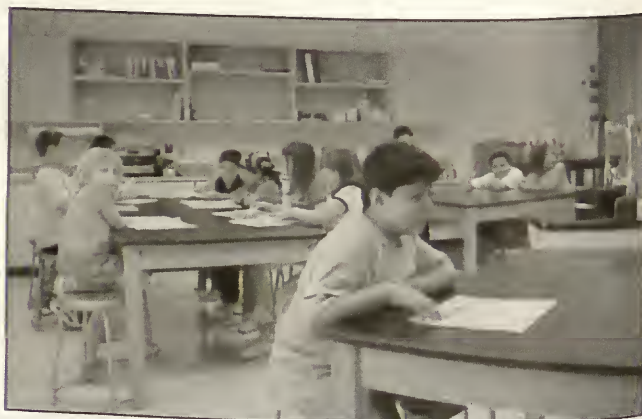
With the teacher's help, all students received two toothpicks to insert around the plant to hold it in place. Then, we handed out a sandwich fold-over baggie with a rubber band to make a tiny greenhouse for each plant until it is rooted. The students seemed pleased at the results. Several questions were asked, but the most enjoyable comment was "Do you think my plant is growing yet?" (H-m-m-m maybe tomorrow.) Everyone thanked us. (There were no costs to the school or students as our club absorbed all the costs.) The students lined up holding their own potted plant and tub, then, they marched back to their classroom where the plants were lined up on a windowsill that faces southeast.



*Kathy Hebert and Joyce Stenger holding the overgrown Episcia 'Toy Silver'.*



*Joyce Stenger and Pierce Allen with third grade teacher, Donna Giorno.*



*Third-graders in their science lab were ready to pot-up some plants.*

Pierce will continue to be our go-between on plant questions and comments. Later in the school year, we will check to see how their plants are doing and provide a slide show on growing Gesneriads or African violets.

This has been a wonderful experience for everyone. Hopefully, other clubs can plan a community project to "adopt" a classroom, eldercare home, or business club and spread the word about our favorite plants.



## Plant Stands

by Caitlin Muello

Up, down, up, down. That's me with my plant stands. I change my mind frequently as to whether I want to use them or not. Of course, I also change my mind frequently as to whether I even want to grow African violets, but that's another subject. You can laugh, but plant stands as well as the plants themselves take a lot of time, space, and commitment.

Years ago there was basically one size of plant stand...big. The basic size was about 6 feet high, 5 feet wide and about 2 feet deep, and you had to allow for space around the stand for access to your plants. So, first of all, you had to decide if you had the space to even allow for one. Of course, some growers have two, three, or more plant stands and have whole rooms devoted to their hobby.

Some years later, the plant stand manufacturers decided that maybe not everyone had a space that big to use for a plant stand, and they invented a small stand. This one stands about 6 feet high, two feet wide, and about 18 inches deep. This stand is good especially for apartments and smaller plant

collections. It has four shelves, and allows for one 11 by 22 inch tray on each level.

My favorite plant stand is the one that is essentially the large plant stand "folded" in half. It is a square shape as opposed to a long rectangular shape. It has four levels, each level allowing two trays.

In addition to the stand themselves, you have to decide what kind of fixtures and bulbs you need. Some fixtures are "shop" length, while the smaller stands have shorter-sized fixtures and tubes. I suggest that if you are in the market for a plant stand, you check out Indoor Gardening Supply (IGS) at <http://www.indoorgardeningsupplies.com>. There are all sorts of stands, fixtures, and bulbs to look at!

For many years I had several plant stands up and running. As I said, it does take commitment to have a successful experience of growing with plant stands, but it can be fun and rewarding.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

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## Thrips

by Sue Hodges

Thrips are small, slender insects that damage African violet flowers. These insects can be yellow, yellow/brown, or grey to dark brown in color. They will survive on leaves or in the crown of plants, but they prefer the flowers, feeding on the pollen. Some thrips have a larval stage that moves to the potting mix to feed on organic matter. They like hot, dry conditions and multiply quickly in summer when a life cycle can be completed in 10 to 15 days.

If your violet flowers dry out, distort, or don't open properly, suspect thrips and check with a magnifying glass in the center of the flowers. When the flower buds do not open and flowers seem to go papery rather quickly, thrips will often be the problem. Sometimes you can see spilled pollen on the petals and the pollen sacs will show brown spotting where thrips have been feeding.

Thrips may be visible on the flower petals, or you can cut a bloom and shake it over a piece of white paper to check for

their presence. Several pesticides are available to control thrips. Check at your garden center. Repeat treatments are necessary to ensure eradication, especially in summer when thrips will breed quickly. Remember too that you may unwittingly introduce thrips if you place cut flowers near your violets or work in the garden and then immediately handle your violets.

It is also necessary to remove all flowers and buds, even the smallest ones, from your plants if you are to control thrips. This ensures that no immature thrips are hiding in unopened blooms ready to re-infect your plants. It also removes the pollen, which is their food supply. Misting plants may be beneficial, as moist conditions may retard the growth of thrips. Good luck!

From *African Violet News*, Official journal of the African Violet-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.

# Learning the Hard Way

by Kyle A. Hedberg • Louisville, KY

I have been growing African violets for about fifteen years and have often learned my best lessons the hard way.

For example, I learned the hard way about cyclamen mites, thrips, and fungus gnats. I used to buy all my African violets from local hardware or grocery stores. A big mistake. Every time I got cyclamen mites, it was from those plants. I grow between one and two hundred African violets and once had to throw away about half my collection to save the rest. I cussed, cried, and then pulled myself together with a vow never to buy another generic violet. Cyclamen mites have now become a thing of the past.

I would like to state here that I have never gotten cyclamen mites from our AVSA growers. I tell people that the plants in stores have no faces, no names, and no history. Buyer beware! Our AVSA hybridizers and growers put their names, reputations, and livelihoods into their plants. I have a direct connection by mail or telephone that one could never get from a store plant.

I did, however, receive a snail in one plant order. I simply and gently placed him (or her) outside and bid it a fond farewell. No big deal. I even chuckled thinking, "Oh, a stowaway."

One plant order had a few mealy bugs. Again, thanks to the *African Violet Magazine*, I knew exactly what to do. The little "balls of cotton" tried to gain my affection but to no avail. The problem was solved in little time.

Two occurrences in about fifteen years proves to me that our AVSA hybridizers and growers are hard at work. Combine that with my "eye of suspicion" and we have become a force not to be taken lightly.

When I first became serious about growing African violets, a store that sold violets was having a huge sale. I read everything I could about African violets in preparation. I felt like I was cramming for an exam. I went to the store girded in armor and wielding a mighty sword. I was prepared for battle. No bugs were going home with me. I bought about twenty plants. I took them outside to my car, opened the hatchback, sat down, and plucked off every bud and blossom on all twenty plants.

NO thrips were coming home to roost! The flowers fell to the pavement of the parking lot. People walked by and stared at me. I didn't care. I knew exactly what I was doing. I'm sure that for them it was a funny sight. Once I got home, further precautions took place.

One can never be lazy in the African violet world. If you are, disaster is sure to follow. Another difficult lesson was about to be learned. I needed to make some of my soil-less mix but was too lazy to go to the hardware store to buy it so I went across the street to the grocery store and bought potting soil. I know, ugh! I was tired and looking for shortcuts.

Once I got home, I opened the bag and a huge grey plume of "smoke" went into my face! It was a cloud of fungus gnats! I think I ate one or two. I quickly shut the bag and said a few things I won't repeat. I opened the front door and began flinging my arms frantically shoos the gnats outside. I'm sure I was again an interesting sight to my neighbors as I ran outside, flapping my arms and running in circles!

It may have gone something like this:

"George," wife says to her husband, "look! See that young man? I knew this would happen one day. You can't live in a jungle of African violets without contracting some tropical disease."

"Yes, Dear, I see him. Now let's go inside, it may be contagious!"

Getting dizzy and light-headed, I stopped. I took the closed bag and my receipt back to the store. I told the young lady at the customer service stand that this bag of soil has fungus gnats. "Ma'am, if you don't believe me I will open the bag and demonstrate." Her eyes grew wide as if I was disturbing some monster - for me, that wasn't too far from the truth. She said that wasn't necessary and I quickly got my money as she asked one of the male workers to take control of the bag.

These are only a few of my experiences with African violets. I haven't told you the story of when the police knocked on the door asking about my plant lights glowing from the windows. That, readers, is a story for another day...

**JOIN US IN CINCINNATI, OHIO,  
FOR THE 59th ANNUAL  
AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW  
APRIL 17-24, 2005**

# JUDGING GUIDELINES FOR THE TOP HORTICULTURE AWARDS

by Cathy Cornibe

Do you know how the top horticulture awards are selected? Page 90 of AVSA's 1998 Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges lists some guidelines for judges to follow.

Before a plant can win any major award, it must first earn a blue ribbon. To get a blue ribbon, an exhibit must score at least 90 points.

The **Best in Show** is awarded to the highest scoring **African violet plant** in the show. By "highest scoring", this means the African violet plant that scored the closest to 100 points in that particular show. If you see a tricolor rosette next to the Best-in-Show, it means that the Best in Show violet scored at least 95 points.

Sometimes people forget that the quality of plants can vary tremendously from show to show! A Best-in-Show violet in one show might score 100 points while another might only score in the low 90's.

When a club awards a **Second Best-in-Show**, the second highest scoring plant would receive that award, and so on.

An African violet does not have to be registered to win these top awards. But, there are certain classes in a show where all of the plants must be registered before they can be entered into that class - e.g.: "Best Westerns" and "AVSA Collections".

**How do the judges find out which plants are the highest scoring plants?**

Since some plants have already been point-scored, the judges request those AVSA Collection score sheets and any other score sheets from the show chairman/chairperson. The judges review all the score sheets (standards, semiminatures, miniatures, trailers, species, etc.) to find the highest scores.

Next, the judges check the Best-in-Class winners to see if any of them will score higher. **If any new introduction (such as a "seedling") or an African violet in a novel or unusual container deserves to be considered, it should**

**be judged again - using the same scale of points that would have been used if they had been entered in a regular class.**

One panel of judges should not re-judge another panel's work. But if two plants tie, the judges may review everything and determine if there is a fraction of a point that could be added or deducted to avoid a tie because a club rarely has duplicate awards for these top awards.

Selecting **Second** and **Third Best-in-Show** would follow the same procedure except the judges must delve a little deeper. When seeking out these award winners, the judges must take notice to see if there is an outstanding specimen in any class that did not win a Best-in-Class. **It is possible that an outstanding specimen in one class could score higher than the best specimen in another class!**

The judges are told which top awards are available so they can select these winners. For example, if judges are asked to select a Best Standard and a Best Variegated and the Best-in-Show plant is a standard and variegated - it receives **ALL THREE AWARDS**. If judges are asked to select a Best Miniature, and Best Variegated and the Best-in-Show is a miniature - it receives **ALL THREE AWARDS**.

**Judges should always award an exhibit every award that it deserves.** Judges should not try to spread the awards around in an attempt to distribute them among the members — each exhibit should receive all the awards that it deserves.

**Want to learn more about judging?** Read AVSA's *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges!* It has specific guidelines for all AVSA Judges to follow when they judge a show.

Source: AVSA's *Handbook for AV Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges From the California Council News*

***All Library Requests Must Be Made in Writing to the African Violet Society of America Office***



# AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger

Affiliate Committee

7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506

Email: Promers22@hotmail.com

## Do You Need Money -

for operating expenses or for special projects?

I want to thank those of you who attended the Affiliate Meeting at the AVSA convention in Tucson. It was the best attendance ever. I hope that everyone went home with ideas to share with their affiliates. I also hope that everyone enjoyed our little kick-off special, "I went to convention and brought back \_\_\_\_", and have or will have a chance to share it with club members. The topic this month is based on the information shared at convention on 'Ways and Means' or ways to add to your club's treasury, money to be used for general operating expenses, or for a special project or program.

Many affiliates sponsor spring shows. Therefore, this column is devoted to the ideas that were suggested to incorporate as part of a local show.

Many clubs add a raffle to provide additional interest and/or additional revenue during the local show. There are as many variations as there are clubs. Some raffle light stands or table plant lights, available through some of our commercial advertisers. Some put together baskets of growing items. These items may include *Growing to Show*, a book available through the AVSA Office, growing supplies such as assorted size pots, soil mix, wicking, sucker tool, tweezers, grooming brush, fertilizer, and leaf support rings. In the case of some state or regional shows, each club in the state or region assembles a basket (sometimes with a special theme) which is not only raffled but is entered in competition for a prize awarded to the club submitting the best one. Some clubs raffle a membership subscription to *The African Violet Magazine*, a handmade quilt, floral crocheted afghan, cross stitched framed art, or a wall hanging.

Many clubs order plants from wholesale businesses, and some order from our AVSA commercial members at reduced prices that are offered to clubs for their sales. The majority of club sales feature plants grown by the club members. Many clubs are happy to have any plants contributed and retain anywhere from 10% to 50% of the sale price. The amount depends on the requirements and needs of the affiliate. Clubs often have to pay a percentage of their sales to the location,

such as in the case of botanical gardens and horticulture centers. Some clubs need the income more than others. Others retain less from the show plants than from the sale plants. Clubs may allow the grower to receive the full amount for sale of the show plants, though others find it easier to retain the same amount for both the sale and show plants. Many clubs have found that the more that is given to the members, the more the members are encouraged to grow to sell. Other affiliates require their members to donate so many plants to a sale before receiving a percentage from the remaining plants. Clubs may require members to have a certain number of entries in the show, or some require a donation of 5 or 10 plants, or members must donate a blooming plant to the membership table to use when recruiting AVSA members.

Many clubs sell supplies in addition to plants. These may include standard size plastic pots, commercial specialty pots, wicking, soil mix, fertilizers, simple plastic wicking pots, leaf support rings, Physan 20, other additives used by the club members, and starter kits. Starter kits usually include a small plastic bag of starter mix and/or a bag of vermiculite/perlite, a few small plastic pots or solo cups with holes, and a few wicks, selling for about fifty cents.

Many clubs find that a good money maker is potting leaves or repotting purchased plants into specialty pots. Sometimes the public brings plants to be looked at by "the experts" and a charge is made for the plants to be repotted into a larger or different pot. Some clubs are able to absorb the cost and repot the plants to encourage the public to adopt the hobby, join the club, or AVSA.

Don't forget that credit is given to each club for each AVSA member that they sponsor during any calendar year. After a club is credited with 10 new members, the club receives a rebate of \$1 for each new member. The club that signs up the most new members in any calendar year receives a free one-year affiliate membership and other monetary awards that are offered for the year.

# AVSA Board of Director Nominees for 2005

**President** ..... Linda Owens  
**1st Vice President** ..... Joyce Stork  
**2nd Vice President** ..... Ron Davidson  
**3rd Vice President** ..... Linda Golubski  
**Treasurer** ..... Sue Ramser  
**Secretary** ..... Nancy Hayes

## Directors

John Carter  
Randy Deutsch

Blanca Fuster

Linda Abplanalp  
Andrea Worrell

Photographs and Biographies will appear in the March/April 2005 *African Violet Magazine*

## Coming Events



### February 11 - 13 - FLORIDA

Upper Pinellas AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Sunken Gardens  
1825 4th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Feb 11 - 10am - 4pm  
Feb 12 - 10am - 4pm  
Feb 13 - Noon - 3pm  
Info: Phyllis King (727) 398-7450  
Email: [rphyllis@verizon.net](mailto:rphyllis@verizon.net)

### February 12 & 13 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Foot Hills Mall  
7325 N. La Cholla Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ  
Feb 12 - 9am - 9pm  
Feb 13 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: Kathy Bell (520) 574 - 1367  
Email: [kbell@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kbell@ag.arizona.edu)

### February 12 & 13 - MISSOURI

AVS of Greater Kansas City Show/Sale  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5100 Pennsylvania  
Kansas City, MO  
Both Days: 10am - 3pm  
Info: (816) 784-5300  
Email: [lydpeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lydpeg@sbcglobal.net)

### February 25 & 26 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVS Show/Sale  
Farm Bureau  
100 South Mulrennan Rd.  
Valrico, FL  
Feb 25 - Noon - 7pm  
Feb 26 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Joni Hartzler (813) 962 - 4716  
Email: [usarealty@msn.com](mailto:usarealty@msn.com)

### February 26 & 27 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale  
Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK  
Feb 26 - 10am - 4pm  
Feb 27 Noon - 4pm  
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

### February 26 & 27 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Judged Show/Sale  
Houston Garden Center  
Hermann Park  
1500 Hermann Dr.  
Houston, TX  
Feb 26 - 1pm - 5pm  
Feb 27 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Elaine Click (713) 462 - 4257  
Email: [eeclick@aol.com](mailto:eeclick@aol.com)

### March 5 - TEXAS

Moonlight AVS  
AVSA Judged Show  
Fort Worth Botanic Garden  
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.  
Fort Worth, TX  
Mar 5 - 1pm - 5pm  
Mar 6 - 1pm - 4pm  
Info: Chris Daroche (817) 923 - 3530  
Email: [chrislovesviolet@aol.com](mailto:chrislovesviolet@aol.com)

### March 12 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS & Tustana AVS  
Judged Show/Sale  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA  
Hours: 11am - 4pm  
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut (310) 325 - 2993  
Email: [jeisenhut@hotmail.com](mailto:jeisenhut@hotmail.com)

### March 10 - 12 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS &  
First Nighter AVS  
Combined Judged Show/Sale  
Richardson Square Mall  
501 S. Plano Rd. at Beltline  
Richardson, TX  
Hours: 10am - 9pm  
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

### March 12 & 13 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Spring Show  
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center  
11375 Cortez Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL  
Mar 12 - 11am - 5pm  
Mar 13 - Noon - 3pm  
Info: Thad Scaggs (352) 592 - 3501  
Email: [tascaggs@juno.com](mailto:tascaggs@juno.com)

### April 23 & 24 - QUEBEC, CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal  
Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve  
4601 Sherbrook Street Est  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Both Days: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Monique Beaucage (514) 990 - 5701  
Email: [monique\\_beaucage@hotmail.com](mailto:monique_beaucage@hotmail.com)



# My Passion for Episcias!

by Sharon Kemp

Those of us who grow gesneriads are blessed in a multitude of ways, not least because of the incredible variety of plants with which we can surround ourselves.

After a year or two spent in the company of these leafy charmers, most of us will admit to having a favorite 'member of the family'.

In my case, it's episcias, those showy, colorful individuals grown not (or, at least, rarely) for their blooms, but for their magnificent foliage. My passion for episcias really began as the result of a struggle with a plant room that grew unbearably warm during the summer months. My streps wilted and went into a deep gloom, and even my *Saintpaulias* were only content on the lowest shelves of the plant stands. In desperation, I plunked the half-dozen episcias I owned at the time onto the uppermost shelves and watched in amazement as they reveled in the heat and humidity. Here, as far as they were concerned, was heaven. They grew like weeds, they bloomed, they threw stolons left, right, and center with embarrassingly little effort on my part. Boy, was I hooked! Before long, other varieties were joining my original group on the stand - lots of others. From there, one shelf became two, and soon the episcias were bodily shoving everything else out of their way. Their enthusiasm for life was heart warming to a novice who been responsible for a depressing number of horticultural homicides. It was all a tremendous boost for the ego.

So when I moved my plant growing space from that upstairs bedroom down to the basement of our home a year ago, I made certain that I could still provide the conditions that my episcia babies loved. The most crucial thing: warmth. Some members of the gesneriad clan can tolerate cool temperatures: episcias absolutely loathe the cold and will not thank you for any day or night when the mercury dips below 18° C (65° F). They would prefer 21° C (70 F). (Actually, they think 27° C (80° F) is swell, but that's another story.) Bottom line: the warmer your growing space, the better for your episcias. Warm temperatures will also help to ensure that the extra humidity you provide will not create ideal con-

ditions for growing something else: powdery mildew. If all else fails, grow episcias only on the top shelves of your plant stands where temperatures will be highest.

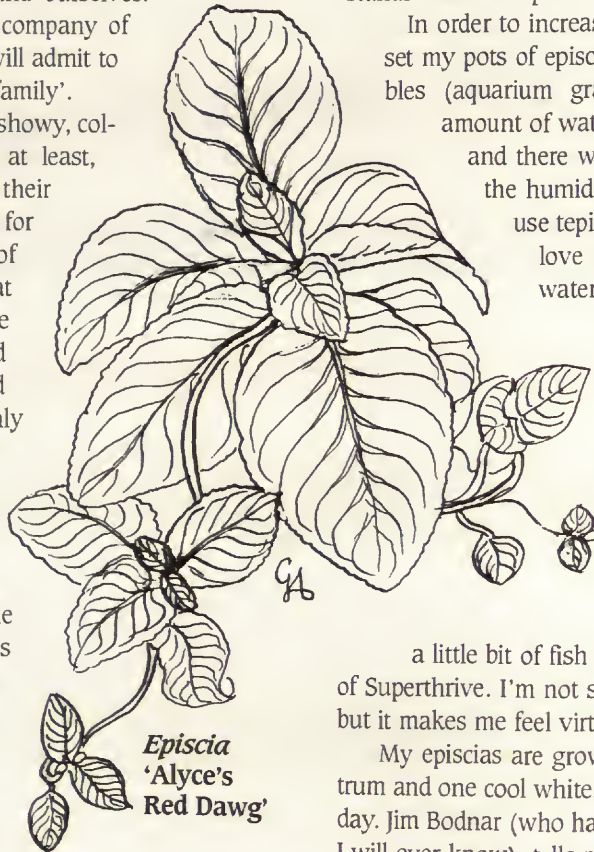
In order to increase the humidity surrounding them, I set my pots of episcias on trays that are lined with pebbles (aquarium gravel, actually). I don't pour any amount of water into the gravel, just a splash here and there when I'm watering the plants to raise the humidity. As far as watering is concerned, use tepid or even slightly warm water - they love it. No gesneriad appreciates cold water (although the magnificent streps Paul Lee grows in his greenhouse would suggest otherwise), but, again with episcias, warmth is the key word.

Feeding is pretty straightforward. I just use the standard quarter of a teaspoon of 20-20-20 to a 4-liter jug of water as their 'regular' diet. Once a month or so, I give them a change of pace with

a little bit of fish emulsion instead, along with a drop of Superthrive. I'm not sure that they really care that much, but it makes me feel virtuous.

My episcias are grown under two tubes, one wide spectrum and one cool white, with the timers set for 12 hours per day. Jim Bodnar (who has forgotten more about episcias than I will ever know), tells me that setting the plants a bit closer to the tubes will develop deeper and more vibrant color in the foliage, as will growing the plants under four tubes (which I haven't yet tried).

Reproducing episcias is far too simple, I regret to say, which is why those of us who love them are invariably swimming in the little darlings. Simply remove a stolon from the plant of your choice when it's a size you feel comfortable handling, cut the stem to a length of about one-and-a-half inches (I prefer to keep them short.), then place into a nice little divot you've made in a solo cup filled with moist potting mix. And that, I'm afraid, is it - no need to cover them. It's all so simple - which is where the trouble lies, of course. Episcias, episcias, everywhere... If by some chance you have a plant that stubbornly refuses to present you with any stolons, you may take a cutting and proceed in the same manner. In most cases, stolons will root and grow into a nice little starter plant with astonishing speed in four to six weeks. If you're growing for show, it's essential to pot them up regularly. With large growers, that may mean re-potting every



*Episcia*  
'Alyce's  
Red Dawg'

month. Potting several youngsters together in one container is also a good method if you're looking for a full, lush effect. Personally, I have found that most episcia varieties aren't fond of really shallow pots, preferring a bit more depth of soil for their root system. But this is something each grower should experiment with a bit.

It's important to note that individual episcias don't live forever. In fact, they really can't even be called long-lived. I rarely have a plant in my growing room that's much more than a year old. I do, however, have its children and grandchildren; that lack of longevity is one very legitimate reason to keep on propagating!

I'm relieved to say that, so far at least, I've experienced few culture problems as far as episcias are concerned. (I firmly believe this is due to growing conditions, rather than expertise.) There's no question that certain varieties (such as the yellow-flowered 'Suomi') seem to resent being handled more than necessary. Some varieties, like 'Tropical Topaz', have leaves which often turn yellow for no apparent reason.

At present, I grow about 50 varieties of episcias, including the one that started it all: 'Ronnie', which was obtained from the sales table at the Toronto Gesneriad Society Show in 2002, and had been donated by John Duncan. (In fact, the plant was unidentified when purchased and lived with John's name emblazoned on its pot until Olive Ma Robinson kindly identified one of its offspring that had taken up residence with John and Doris Brownlie.) 'Ronnie' is a great episcia for a beginner: a happy sort that will grow very large with very little encouragement. Other early acquisitions made through the Brownlies include 'Strawberry Patch', 'Kee Wee', and 'Pink Acajou', all very attractive and co-operative growers.

In the past year, I've been very pleased with a red called

'Alyce's Aussie' and several other varieties including 'Plum Country' and 'Coco', all acquired from Paul Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. I'm pleased to say, however, that nearly all of my very favorite varieties happen to be Canadian hybrids. These include 'Huronia Holiday', a wonderful, older red produced by John Beaulieu and several magnificent varieties hybridized by our very own Jim Bodnar whose love for these beauties is limitless. My top pick of the Bodnar group is 'Jim's Green Acres'. After a hiatus, Jim has begun hybridizing again, and two of his new introductions look awesome: 'Jim's Pink Rose' and 'Jim's Moon Rock'. Watch for those!

There's no question that, as with any of the gesneriads, each grower must find what performs best for him or her. While I love 'Tiger Stripe', I can't grow it nearly as well as can Nancy Ley. I've thrown in the towel on 'Panama White' because it steadfastly refused to bloom for me, although I know darn well that it bloomed beautifully for John Duncan. I've also cut back on my 'pinks,' varieties like 'Cleopatra' and 'Moonlight Valley'. They are beautiful, but they are best when grown under a dome or in an enclosure, and I just feel the need to be more intimate with my plants. How can I pester them if they're not out in the open with me?

As with any gesneriads, the bottom line is the same: grow the varieties that do well for you in your conditions and

say a fond farewell to those that refuse to co-operate. But if you don't have any episcias on your shelves, do try at least a couple. Those rich, warm colors go a long way toward brightening winter days.

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada  
Originally published in the *Newsletter* of the  
Toronto Gesneriad Society



**Episcia**  
**'Peppermint Brocade'**

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# Brazil, The Trip of a Lifetime A Search for Gesneriads

by Lee Stradley

After an all-night flight, we landed in Sao Paulo, one of the largest cities in the world. It was exciting that there were buildings as far as you could see. I had wondered what this trip would be like because the participants were from such diversified backgrounds. The participants included our guide, Mauro Peixoto, Gussie Farrice, Jeanne Katzenstein, our wonderful coordinators, Marilyn Allen, Carol Ann Bonner, Nola Carr, Elizabeth Glazebrook, Robert Hall, Thad and Betty Holcomb, Ingrid Lindskog, David Moody, Ben Paternoster, Bill Price, Carolyn Ripps, Wallace Wells, our bus driver Antonio Domingo, (Toto for short), and me. As we started our trip, Jeanne pointed out the cecropia tree, a good indicator plant for finding gesneriads. Later, we found other indicator plants such as begonias, orchids, bromeliads, and tropical cacti. Our first day we walked up a short trail along a small stream, to find our first gesneriad, a *Besleria* species with white flowers and yellow calyx growing in heavy shade. It was in a very moist environment.

On our second day, we went up the mountains near Paraty. It was a ride with a wonderful view up into the clouds. When the bus could get no further, we walked. The elevation was 2500 feet. Up the road, we found some *Besleria* and *Sinningia schiffneri* (not in bloom), growing in wet areas that were heavily shaded. We also found *Codonanthe gracilis* and *C. devosiana* growing on the sides of rocks. On the boulders above us were *Nematanthus brasiliensis* and *N. fluminensis*, with seedpods open to reveal their fruit. The inside of the seedpod was red to attract insects to eat the fruit and disperse the seed. We also saw *Nematanthus monanthus*. Find a large boulder, and chances are you will find a *Nematanthus* on top or on the sides, partially shaded by other plants and not really growing in much of anything except some compost.

With a boost from yours truly, Bill Price rescued *Sinningia douglasii* tubers that were hanging from the rocks and about to fall. These tubers grew mostly exposed and held on only by a few roots clinging to cracks in the rocks, with small amounts of compost or soil. Some were bathed by a small stream of water trickling around them.

Going from one extreme to another, Mauro got us into a park that was not open to the public. There we saw *Codonanthe gracilis* growing in open woods along the ocean, at a very warm temperature. There seemed to be much less humidity in this area, and I could see how the *Codonanthe's* succulent leaves would come in handy. At times, the ocean would bathe the beach and wooded areas in a salty mist. How

could a gesneriad survive in this? We also found *Nematanthus fissus* growing on a mango tree. Later that day we passed the mountain where *Sinningia* sp. 'Rio Das Pedras' was found. It was great to see this plant, but we did not have time to make a two and a half hour (or more) hike up to the actual location. Stopping along the way from Rio up to Teresopolis, we found *Vanhouttea* growing next to the highway. Around the hotel trails in Teresopolis, we found a *Nematanthus crassifolius* five feet up, attached to a tree with no media to speak of. It was in open woods with quite a heavy canopy covering but fair light.

The next day, we visited Serra dos Orgaos Park, taking a long hike on many trails where we found *Nematanthus sericea* (meaning silky leaves). Some of the plants had red flowers kissed with a yellow star across the front. I fell in love with this variation. It was amazing to see it growing on a stump in full sun; a large plant with many limbs standing straight up. Not the norm for sure! Most grew like the *Nematanthus* mentioned earlier, in much shadier conditions, and the stems arched toward the ground. The red backsides of their leaves were up high, probably to attract hummingbirds to their flowers. In the park we also located *Nematanthus crassifolia*, *Vanhouttea gardnerii*, a *Belseria* species, and *Sinningia douglasii* and *Sinningia cooperi* just coming out of dormancy. It was interesting to find *S. cooperi* growing on tree trunks under a light coating of moss, and bone dry. I admit I was a bit disappointed that day because the drought occurring then had kept many plants from growing or flowering well. As we walked along the trail, we found two *Vanhouttea* species and a *Sinningia* tuber here and there on a tree. I had never expected to see them growing like that! We stopped for a break, turned around, and low and behold, there was a beautiful *Sinningia cooperi* in full bloom attached to a tree. The tuber was fully exposed, and a huge bromeliad was growing over the tuber.

The next day, we had an eight-hour trip to Campos with stops along the way. This was *Sinningia speciosa* country. I was amazed to think that such a delicate looking plant could survive these conditions. We walked down a steep bank to the ocean and looked for plants among grasses and big cacti in full sun. It was bone dry at the moment. We crossed to a different location and found them just coming up, out of our reach, except to the zoom lens of the cameras. I couldn't imagine how the plants ever survive; the other plants must shade them some and protect them from the ocean winds.

The next morning, we took vans through sugar cane fields

and up a mountain to find a *Sinningia pusilla* habitat. There were few epiphytes except Spanish moss. We took a short walk from the vans to a boulder, and to our surprise, on the one side was a whole colony of the sinningias we were seeking. They were growing vertically, among the dry moss, with small cacti, with a few grasses shading them. They were protected from full sun by the side of the rock they grew on.

Stopping along the road near Rio, we could see many *Sinningia bulbosa* tubers, growing fully exposed on vertical cliffs with water dripping on some of them. Their roots must grow into the cracks in the rocks. On the other side of the road, we found the plants in flower, growing in large chunks of rock that had been dumped there, some rotting debris, with cacti, and kalanchoe, in full sun. We had a wonderful ocean view, but it was hard climbing to get good photos.

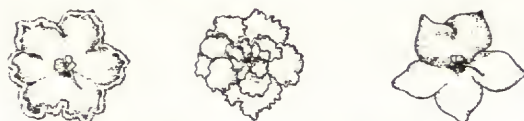
We returned to San Palo and drove to Nova Odessa. At Saltao Falls, we descended a steep trail, finding *Sinningia eumorpha* growing along the banks in the clay, silt, and loam soil, alongside oxalis and begonias. At the base of a narrow waterfall, we found *Sinningia macropoda*, though not in bloom, on the drier, shadier side, among chunks of rocks! On the sunnier side, we found them in bloom, and in some cases, the mist from the falls would even bathe them as the wind blew the water over them. These were growing in loose chunks of rocks with debris, soil, and leaf matter. We walked down a stream and up another small one, to a dead end at a cliff in front of us. We then climbed up the wet, muddy, slimy rocky slope around forty feet to a small ledge where we were able to walk with some difficulty along the side of the cliff. Here we found *Sinningia pierinii* in bloom and growing on rock cliffs.

When they get too big, they fall off and rot. We found dead tubers on the ground, along with bunches of orchids. One *Sinningia pierinii* was in flower, growing off the rocks on a steep bank. Growing among them were begonias and some pleurithalid orchids. In damper areas on the ground, *Sinningia eumorpha* were sprouting.

We took a smaller bus to our tour guide, Mauro's, plantation. It was a cold misty day, perfect for spending hours in Mauro's greenhouse. I saw the biggest tuber I'd ever seen - it was the size of a beach ball! There were impressive *Nematanthus* species in bloom, large white flowers with heavy spotting, *Nematanthus punctatus*, and another that was not as large but also spotted, which Mauro thinks is a new species.

On our last full day, we explored some areas around San Paulo. We were on a dirt road, and along side us was an above-ground water main that carried water to San Paulo. The pipe was enormous, and a large strip of land was kept cleared on each side. Growing in this clay loam was *Sinningia allagophylla*, in bud. I was told that the tubers were quite deep in the ground. Later, as we walked along a wooded strip, we found *Nematanthus fritschii*, and while driving out the dirt road, we spotted *Sinningia elatior* in full bloom. Everyone raced off the bus! These plants were growing on the bank above the road, in full sun!

This was a trip of a lifetime with friends I hope to have for a lifetime as well. Growing gesneriads has brought so many wonderful people into my life that it isn't just about plants now. It's about the friendships they kindle.



## Are Those Seed Pods on My Plant?

by Joyce Stork

From the AVSA Web Site "Frequently Asked Questions"

Multiple spontaneous seed pods could mean that there is a pollinator living in your African violet collection. Most commonly, these would be thrips, which feed on pollen sacs. They are about the size of a hyphen and will crawl onto the flower petals if you blow sharply into a flower where they are feeding. If you have them, you need to get them under control.

Sometimes violets shed pollen easily, so it is possible that seed pods occurred without help, in which case the violets would have self-pollinated (meaning a cross with itself). Often, the resulting offspring aren't very useful, but it is fun to grow violets out from seed.

The seed pod needs to stay on the stem for at least four months (with the dead flower under it), until it is crispy dry.

Harvest it and put it in an envelope for another month to ripen fully. To sow the seed, you will need a shallow container filled with moist vermiculite that can be covered (fast food salad containers work great). Control your breath as you break the seed pod open onto a folded sheet of paper (seed should fall into the crease), then use the paper to scatter the seed across the seed bed. Lightly mist the top of the seed bed with a spray bottle of water so that good contact is made between the seed and the vermiculite. Cover and place it in a bright location away from direct sunlight. Over the course of the next few weeks, the seed should germinate (sometimes seed is sterile and nothing happens), and tiny plants will begin to grow. These will need to be separated into their own pots as time passes.

# My Quest to Preserve Rob's Hybrids

by Richard Follett

Two years ago, I was grooming a tray of African violet plants on my basement light stand when I realized that the ones that grew best for me with the least care were hybrids by Dr. Ralph "Rob" Robinson. Apart from their unique blossom types and colors, their ease of culture, natural symmetry, and semi-mini size, these sturdy and dependable plants seem to tolerate ranges of temperature and periods of neglect that other African violets simply cannot endure. This makes them ideal for beginning growers; and one of my greatest joys is 'recruiting' new AV growers and nurturing a new generation of knowledgeable and dedicated AV enthusiasts.

Every African violet aficionado eventually arrives at an understanding of which hybrids best suit his or her own particular growing conditions, aesthetic sensibilities, natural interests, and level of growing expertise. It is indeed a happy day for any African violet lover when all forces converge into an epiphanal moment of "AV awareness." In my case, Rob's hybrids proved to be a perfect match for my AV 'personality profile'.

As I began to share my newfound passion with other AV devotees, I realized that many of them shared my enthusiasm for Rob's hybrids but were having a hard time finding treasured varieties. I immediately began to 'surf the net' and to pore over every African violet catalogue I could get my hands on in an effort to locate hard-to-find Rob's hybrids and was shocked to discover that many of them have 'fallen off the radar' even though many varieties are relatively young in terms of African violet registration dates. Part of the problem is that Rob, who is a genius, is so heavily invested in creating new and amazing hybrids that he forgets to preserve the old ones or chooses to stop growing them because a newer variety expresses the desired trait more brilliantly. His is a scientist's perspective, and he sometimes forgets that many of his older hybrids have sentimental value for hundreds of growers.

After acquiring approximately seventy of Rob's varieties and finding them all to be delightful and easy to grow, I developed a mission – to locate, conserve, and propagate every registered Rob's hybrid so that future African violet lovers will always be able to find the Rob's hybrids they desire for their collections. The task proved to be enormous and far-reaching. I wrote to everyone for whom I could find information; individuals, clubs, commercial growers, and even growers who had long ago closed up shop. I pored over past winners lists from AV conventions, wrote to club presidents in other countries, and even recruited volunteer 'eagle-eyes' to keep me informed of sightings. I even called Dr. Ralph 'Rob' Robinson personally and informed him of my mission. He was initially cordial and perhaps bemused, but as my 'Rob's museum' has

come closer to completion, he has become actively involved. He has graciously donated new or obscure hybrids and has even called me personally to tell me about leads on 'lost' Rob's AVs. This past summer, I had the thrill of a lifetime – while visiting with my friend Fay Wagman, I got to visit the Violet Barn, where I met with Rob and his lovely wife Olive. I personally selected plants for my project and even had a tour of the growing room where Rob and Olive are nurturing beautiful new varieties. On the same trip, I visited African violet pioneer Ethel Champion and her husband Champ in their lovely home and was given a personal tour of Ethel's legendary basement growing room. There I was thrilled to discover a plant of "Rob's April Storm" that Ethel herself has forgotten she had. It is a variety that even Rob himself said he never thought I would find. Ethel graciously gifted me with four leaves of April Storm which are just showing 'mouse ears' at this writing.

The response to my Rob's conservation effort has been heartwarming and inspiring. Without exception, people I have contacted have greeted my inquiries with warmth and sincere appreciation. People have sent leaves, started plantlets, sent me leads and pictures from local clubs and national shows, and have even spent considerable personal time and energy tracking down leads for me in foreign countries from Canada to England, Sweden, and Japan. I have made lifelong friends and have experienced thrilling discoveries and heartrending setbacks. On more than one occasion, I have raised a leaf I searched for months to find only to have it fail to bloom true – back to square one after more than a year of patience and effort from leaf to blooming plant! Perhaps my greatest success has been to have Rob himself call me to request an old variety that he had long since lost and wanted to have back again for hybridization purposes. Boy, did I feel honored THAT day! I was able to deliver the desired leaves personally when I visited last summer.

There are many, many people to thank—far too many to mention in one article, but I would be remiss not to single out Fay Wagman, Paul Sorano (whom I also visited on that remarkable summer odyssey), Dr. Ralph "Rob Robinson, Barbara Elkin, Alyce Droege, Brenda Petry, and Diane Smith of Canada, who has been my watchdog and champion among Canadian AV enthusiasts. Countless others have supported me with referrals, well wishes, alerts to on-line auctions, and personal introductions to potential sources. Several wonderful AV friends are growing plants especially for my 'conservatory,' and others are looking every day for 'lost' varieties. I have been able to reunite many people with favorite varieties (I do not charge for this service) and have an entire scrapbook of beautiful written thank you cards and letters. It has truly

become a community effort and a labor of love. More than anything else, I have realized that 'African violet people' are some of the most generous and caring folks on the planet. I feel blessed to be a part of such a dedicated, cohesive, and joy-filled community.

At this writing, I am roughly forty varieties away from achieving my goal. I hope one day to be able to make all of Rob's wonderful hybrids available to all who desire them. The success of this project has tremendous implications for the AV world in general; if I can succeed at this, maybe someone else will be inspired to begin a conservatory for the marvelous hybrids of Hortense Pittman, J. Dates, Lyndon Lyon, or Ethel Champion (to name just a few) before they are lost to future generations. I am deeply grateful for the support I have received, and keenly hopeful that the relatively few remaining missing Rob's hybrids can be found and conserved.

Not all of my plants are mature enough yet to withstand

repeated leaf harvests, and some have had a very difficult start. I have found "Rob's Lilliputian" (which I searched for more than a year to find), "Rob's Itty Bitty" and "Rob's Choo Choo" uncannily difficult to get a good leaf start from, but I hope to be able to offer leaves for most varieties by mail in the Fall of 2005. I will take out an advertisement in the AVSA magazine when the bulk of my 'found varieties' are ready to be shared. In the meantime, please continue to send good 'vibes' and to keep your eyes and ears open – I appreciate the help more than you will ever know. I can be reached by e-mail at [richfoll@yahoo.com](mailto:richfoll@yahoo.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 583, Strasburg, VA 22657-0583. A list of the remaining 'lost varieties' appears below. Please contact me if you have any of these varieties or any 'leads.' I will also be happy to keep wish lists on file and to contact the senders when I have desired leaves available. Thank you, and may the happiness and inspiration you have brought to me be returned to you many times over!

### Lost Rob's Hybrids:

Rob's Bedazzled  
 Rob's Blue Devil  
 Rob's Blue Moon  
 Rob's Blue Kazoo  
 Rob's Blueberry Patches (chimera – must be propagated from sucker or bloom stalk)  
 Rob's Briar Patch  
 Rob's Candy Apple  
 Rob's Chimney Sweep  
 Rob's Crazy Kilt (chimera – must be propagated from sucker bloom stalk)  
 Rob's Double Whammy  
 Rob's Ember Glow  
 Rob's Fateful Twist  
 Rob's Firebrand  
 Rob's Half Moon  
 Rob's Ink Storm  
 Rob's Little Josephine  
 Rob's Little Shmoozie  
 Rob's Megan Lynn

Rob's Midnite Madness  
 Rob's Mischievous  
 Rob's Miss Priss  
 Rob's Moon Critter  
 Rob's Mountain Ash  
 Rob's Oopsie Daisy (chimera – must be propagated from sucker or bloom stalk)  
 Rob's Orchid Eclipse (chimera – must be propagated from sucker or bloom stalk)  
 Rob's Pal Paul  
 Rob's Puddle Hopper  
 Rob's Quixotic Lad  
 Rob's Sweet Pea  
 Rob's Taffy Pull  
 Rob's Toodle Doo  
 Rob's Violet Sky  
 Rob's Whatsit  
 Rob's Whimsical  
 Rob's Whoopie  
 Rob's Willie Winkle

## Addition to the list of AVSA Master Judges

Please add **Celia Schafer** to your list of **Master Judges**. Celia is from Iowa and became a **MASTER JUDGE** in October, 2004. Her name was omitted from the list of new Master Judges in the September/October AVM. Celia, we applaud you for your hard work and welcome you to the rank of Master Judge.

# In Praise of Moist-Rite Planters

by Sharon Holtzman

Although I have seen advertisements for the MOIST-RITE PLANTERS for many years, I have never bothered to try them. Heaven only knows why this is, because I certainly have tried everything else that I have seen in the African Violet Magazine.

I have always been happy with the way my *Streptocarpus* have grown in the Oyama Planters, but I have also admired the streps that constantly win awards grown by Jan Carr of Springfield, Ohio. Curiosity finally got the best of me, and since I purchased twenty-four new varieties of streps at the Ohio State Convention, I thought I would try putting a couple of them in the Moist-Rites. All I can say is WOW!! These things took off like a bat out of... an attic.

The first thing I noticed was how quickly they set bud, with almost every leaf producing at the same time. The second thing I noticed was the new center growth of leaves that seemed to be appearing weekly. This was exciting at first, but then I began to panic as the plant was outgrowing the pot. What to do? Not wanting to disturb something that was doing so well, I paced around for a couple days before I finally bit the bullet and pulled the plant out of the pot. Actually, I didn't just pull the plant out of the pot. I had to use one of my husband's screwdrivers to pry it out. The massive root system was just unbelievable.

Afraid of shocking the plant, I only removed a couple large outside leaves and trimmed about one inch off the bottom of the root section and replanted it in the pot with some fresh growing medium in the bottom. The strep didn't miss a beat.

In trying to figure out why it is that these plants do so well in these pots, I remembered some particular "plug trays" that I used for seeding outdoor bedding plants. The shape of the plug, being sort of an upside-down triangle (everyone picture that?) directed the root growth downward, thus touching the sides more quickly. We have always known that our violets bloom when the roots have filled the pot sufficiently to touch the sides so there you have it. It is the shape of this Moist-Rite planter that causes this to happen faster.

As an experiment I tried taking two African violet starter plants of the same size that were growing in 2-1/2" square pots. I planted one in a 3" round tub and the other in the Moist-Rite. Sure enough, the one in the Moist-Rite bloomed two weeks sooner, and the growth of the plant was a lot more compact and pleasing to look at.

Now for the downside. If these pots are so great, why isn't everyone growing in them? First there is the cost. They are expensive if you have a lot of plants. Then there is the chore of filling the pot with bleach and letting it sit overnight to be rinsed out the next day before using it. This is a very important step that should not be overlooked. There is a residue that may be left in the pot during manufacturing that could clog the holes in the bottom if this step is not taken. Third, be prepared to do a lot of repotting because it seems that the plants growing in these pots need it more often than plants grown in other pots.

From *The Violet Connection*,  
publication of the Ohio State AVS

## Coming Events Deadlines

January/February AVM - November 1

March/April AVM - January 1

May/June AVM - March 1

July/August AVM - May 1

September/October AVM - July 1

November/December AVM - September 1

All events notices must be in writing.

Submit by Email <[rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)>.

Fax: 409.839.4329 or US Postal Service: AVSA Coming Events  
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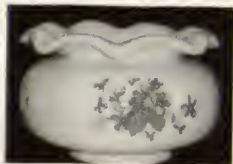
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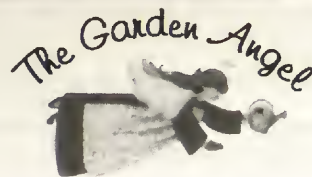
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 VERDICT - (Stork), Mar p 29  
 WARM SUNSHINE - (Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses), Sep cover  
 WRANGLER'S DIXIE CELEBRATION - (W. Smith), Nov p 32  
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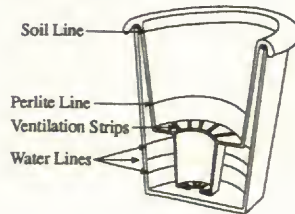
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